

Hammersmith CHRONICLE

First established 1883, part of the London Weekly News group

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Tuesday, February 23rd 2016

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Renewed appeal to save A&E as usage increases

BY JACK DIXON
jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A SHARP rise in the number of people visiting the accident and emergency department at Charing Cross Hospital has sparked renewed calls to save the unit from closure.

Figures showing a "staggering" 13 per cent increase in 'type 1' A&E attendances – the most serious cases – were revealed in a recent report on winter pressures.

Overall more than 60,000 patients used the hospital's accident and emergency department between April and December last year.

The findings were included in a report presented to local councillors by the Imperial College NHS Trust, which manages the hospital.

The spike in attendances has led to fresh calls for the North West London Clinical Commissioning Group to halt its 'Shaping a Healthier Future' programme.

A&E units have already been closed at Hammersmith Hospital and Central Middlesex Hospital, and critics fear that Charing Cross could also lose its 'blue light' services under the plans.

Councillor Stephen Cowan, the Leader of Hammersmith and Fulham council, said: "This new NHS report shows that the situation is actually worse than we thought. The number of people using Char-

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■ **FRONT LINE:** Hammersmith MP Andy Slaughter joined junior doctors from local hospitals at a demonstration outside the Department of Health last week. Hundreds of medics, including some from the Charing Cross and Hammersmith Hospitals, were protesting over the decision to impose new contracts after talks between ministers and the British Medical Association broke down. The decision, which will mean doctors' normal working hours are extended to Saturdays, followed a day of strike action on February 10

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Grow your own food, schools are told

THE Mayor of London, Boris Johnson MP, confirmed this week that 21 schools will share a £42,000 funding pot, allowing them to grow their own food as part of his ongoing drive to tackle obesity in the capital and get young Londoners eating more healthily.

A total of 21 schools in Lambeth and Croydon will receive grants ranging between £300 and £3,000 from the School Garden Grants scheme to create or improve edible gardens, which will be used to educate children about the food they eat and help them to lead healthier lives.

Lambeth and Croydon were both selected by the mayor to be Food Flagship Boroughs last year, working to tackle child obesity through better diets and food education.

In a UK first, the boroughs are making changes to the way food is served in schools, hospitals, and – working with major supermarkets and other retailers – on the high street.

The aim is to show that joined up thinking can improve health and academic attainment of pupils and also of adults in the local communities

FROM THE MAYOR'S OFFICE



they serve.

Mr Johnson said: "I am delighted to be working with Whole Kids Foundation as we introduce this innovative scheme to Croydon and Lambeth – two boroughs that are doing great work to improve diets and attitudes to food."

He added: "School Garden Grants are a great way to harness the enthusiasm of teachers, children and parents toward eating more fruit, vegetables and quality, affordable food. Eating well helps not only to

avoid health problems now and in the future, but has been shown to be a key ingredient to classroom success."

Projects in Lambeth include:

■ Sudbourne School will receive £2,600 to introduce chickens to their existing school garden. Pupils and parents will be supported by Father Nature, a social enterprise promoting children's learning through nature and helping young fathers gain gardening skills, build confidence and find employment. Together, they will prepare the site and the eggs will be used in cooking classes and any surplus sold to the school community.

■ Julian's Primary School will receive £1,170 to create a small shop next to the garden where children can sell produce and products they have grown and made. Children will pick and prepare seasonal produce, make preserves, create a school recipe book, collect and package seeds and grow plants in pots to sell.

Projects in Croydon include:

■ St Giles will receive £3,000 to help build purpose built, wheelchair accessible beds, an outdoor shelter for the pupils, and specialist tools. St

Giles is a special school for pupils with physical disabilities, complex medical needs and complex speech and language needs.

This will be the first ever 'Edible Playground' in a special school, with a significant amount of additional funding raised by Trees for Cities

■ Shirley High School will receive £799 and is the only secondary school in Croydon that will receive a School Garden Grant. The garden will be primarily tended by Food Technology students along with disengaged students. The grant will pay for raised beds, basic tools and equipment along with a small storage shed.

The Mayor has teamed up with Whole Kids Foundation to deliver the School Garden Grants scheme. Whole Kids Foundation – the charitable arm of Whole Foods Market – has run the scheme in the US and Canada for five years, with impressive results.

Their work there has funded 3,014 school gardens, trained 8,438 teachers and served 3,796,922 students. By encouraging children to plant, nurture, harvest, cook and eat food

they have grown themselves, the pilot scheme in London will help them to foster a love of good food and increase understanding of how diet impacts on health.

Benjamin Woodgate from Whole Kids Foundation said: "The more kids know and feel connected to their food, the more curious they become about how things grow or taste, and the more willing they are to try new foods. This is why we believe in edible garden learning spaces."

■ The London Food Flagship programme is one of a number of initiatives supported by the Mayor aimed at tackling obesity amongst school children. They include the multi-million pound Sports Legacy programme to get young people and the wider population involved in physical activity; the Healthy Schools London awards, which supports and recognises school achievements in pupil health and wellbeing; and the Takeaways Toolkit, which the different ways that local authorities can tackle the impact of fast food on Londoners' health, for example by limiting the number of fast food outlets near schools.



Part of Capital Media Newspapers Limited

The London Weekly News Group Westminster & Pimlico News

(Established 1857)

Kensington & Chelsea News

(Established 1857 & 1869)

Fulham Chronicle

(Established 1888)

Hammersmith Chronicle

(Established 2015)

Shepherd's Bush Chronicle

(Established 2015)

London Weekly News

(Established 2014)

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NEWS FROM HAMMERSMITH

Film's food for thought

BY JACK DIXON

jack@londonweeklynews.co.uk

A GROUP of teenagers have brought Hammersmith and Fulham's food bank into focus with a new film.

The team of 13 Hammersmith Academy students visited the food bank and met founder Daphne Aikens before re-telling its story on camera.

The film, which will be shown for the first time this week, documents the struggles of the borough's most vulnerable people as they rely on the support of volunteers to provide food packages.

One of Hammersmith and Fulham's most popular charitable causes, the food bank has already provided 36,000 meals for those in need.

Santiago Cerro, 17, said the visit had opened his eyes to the "massive issue that is happening on my doorstep".

"We have all become really passionate about the cause," he said. "We have proven that if we are given the right skills, resources and time, young people truly can make a difference within our community."

During the visit, the team of 15 to 17-year-olds filmed their



■ **SCREEN FOCUS:** Food bank founder Daphne Aikens at the new hub in White City, which is set to open next month.

experiences and are now applying the finishing touches in the editing suite. They also collected donations of food and were able to offer a package to add to the bank's supplies.

Poonum Chamdal, a senior youth worker at the Sulgrave club in Shepherd's Bush, which led the project, said: "The group was amazing. I didn't expect them to be as en-

gaged and dedicated as they were. They were fantastic."

Launched in 2010, the food bank is based in Fulham and runs a weekly outreach service in Shepherd's Bush. It is set to open a new 'hub' in Bloemfontein Road, White City, in March.

The food bank recently received a £8,000 grant from Hammersmith United Chari-

ties, while Hammersmith and Fulham council is helping to fund the new centre.

Councillor Sue Fennimore, the council's cabinet member for social inclusion, said: "I have nothing but admiration for the hard work of Daphne and her food bank team, as well as these dedicated pupils. They all deserve huge amounts of praise."

Police issue knife crime warning

POLICE chiefs are urging parents to warn their children about the dangers of knife crime, after dozens of weapons were seized in a city-wide sweep.

The Met is calling on mothers and fathers to step in where youngsters may decide to carry knives as a form of protection or to "impress" their peers.

It comes after specialist crime units carried out a series of measures as part of Operation Sceptre.

The anti-knife drive involved school visits and test purchasing

in shops, as well as targeted patrols and weapon sweeps.

A total of 112 knives and 77 offensive weapons were seized during the operation, leading to 338 arrests.

Detective Chief Superintendent Kevin Southworth said: "Support from the public has been essential and we encourage the community to continue to tell us about those who carry knives, to surrender knives and to have conversations with their children about the danger of carrying knives."

Bikers injured in crash on flyover

A MOTORCYCLIST suffered "life-threatening" injuries after colliding with another biker on the Hammersmith flyover.

A 36-year-old man was rushed to hospital following the crash last Thursday (February 11).

The second motorcyclist, a 33-year-old man, was also taken to hospital suffering from minor injuries.

Police and ambulance teams attended the scene at around 9.20pm.

Officers are now appealing for witnesses to call 101 with any information about the collision.

A Met spokesman said: "Officers are keen to speak with anyone who saw the motorbikes or who has any information that may assist the investigation."

Have a say on cycle lane plan

A PUBLIC meeting will be held to discuss plans for a new cycle lane at Hammersmith gyratory.

Transport for London is proposing to create the segregated two-way lane as part of plans to make the area safer for cyclists.

Local councillor Larry Culhane said the gyratory could be a "daunting prospect" for cyclists and that the proposed changes should benefit all road users.

A proposed 'Quietway' – a special route for cyclists avoiding main roads – running across the borough from Kensington to Acton East will also be discussed.

The meeting takes place at Hammersmith Town Hall on Wednesday, March 2 from 7pm.

Closing A&E would be 'extraordinary' decision

FROM PAGE 1

of people using Charing Cross A&E continues to soar, with ambulance crews increasingly choosing to bring patients to Charing Cross in emergencies, while strains on other emergency and urgent care units are also increasing.

"In this pressure-cooker environment, it would be extraordinary to close the A&E at Charing Cross when it is more in demand than ever."

The report revealed that the number of major trauma 'type 1' attendances rose from 25,925 between April and December 2014 to 29,318 for the same period last year – a jump of 13.1 per cent.

Overall A&E attendances at Charing Cross, including minor injuries, rose by 3.6 per cent from 58,017 to 60,095.

The findings also show that the trust fell short of achieving its target waiting times in eight of the nine months between April and December.

The proportion of patients assessed, treated and discharged within four hours slipped to 88 per cent in December, well below the national standard of 95 per cent.

Jim Greal, from the Save Our Hospitals campaign, warned that downgrading the



■ **UNDER PRESSURE:** Charing Cross Hospital's A&E

A&E unit would create longer travel and waiting times for patients who may be unsure where to go for treatment.

"Asking people without medical training to self-diagnose cannot be good for health. Some will be left wondering: where do I go for help?" he said. "Basic demands of urgent care are not being met as things stand so if they close any more hospital facilities additional strain will be put on St Mary's Hospital."

"Closing one will have an immediate impact on all others. They need to keep all the A&E spaces they have got."

A spokeswoman for the CCG insisted that an A&E department would remain at Charing Cross, although it may be in a "different shape and form".

She added: "The Shaping a Healthier Future programme has already delivered an additional 59,560 GP appointments a year in the evening and at weekends for the residents of Hammersmith and Fulham."

"Further investment in 2015/16 will see new and improved community care with more services closer to patients' homes, enabling better management of long-term conditions, keeping people well for longer and preventing unnecessary hospital admissions."

Hammersmith and Fulham council has written to the health secretary, Jeremy Hunt MP, urging him to step in and scrap the plans. It follows the publication of a report by the Independent Healthcare Commission, chaired by Michael Mansfield QC, which concluded that the programme was "deeply flawed".

A public meeting will be held to discuss the future of Charing Cross Hospital at Hammersmith Town Hall tonight (Tuesday) at 7.30pm.

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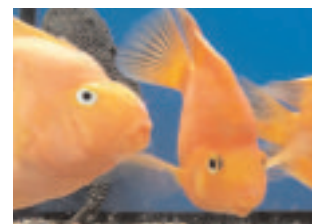
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NEWS FROM WESTMINSTER AND PIMLICO

Freya hopes national cap will take her to the Euros

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

WESTMINSTER'S Portland Place school pupil Freya Glen was called up to represent Scotland in the under 17 football team in a series of challenging matches against Iceland earlier this month.

The 16-year-old was delighted to be selected for the team, especially as she has a Scottish heritage, with both her parents being born in the country.

The Arsenal supporter has

been playing football since she was six, and although the team didn't beat the Iceland ladies during the two matches, Freya is hopeful she will be picked as part of the Scottish team for the UEFA European U17 Championships, which will be held in Norway in March.

Freya currently plays for Millwall under 17s – where she was scouted by the Scotland national team.

To prepare for the matches Freya had a gruelling training regime, which included training three times a week with Millwall and travelling to Glasgow to train with the Scottish team.

The trips to Scotland occasionally meant she had to miss school, but Portland Place was incredibly supportive of Freya's commitment to her sport. One of the last training sessions collided with the mock examinations so the school kindly rearranged the mocks for her.

The matches in Iceland were a fantastic opportunity for the team and Freya to prepare for the European Championships as well as great practice for her future career. Freya hopes to pursue football professionally, however she remains realistic about how much work and effort this will entail.

Freya's mother, Elaine Scott said: "Freya had an amazing time and made some great friends with the other girls on the team. It is great that Portland Place allowed her the time off to train because a lot of schools wouldn't have done that, they have been very supportive."

Right midfielder, Freya said: "Iceland was an amazing experience and I hope to get the opportunity to play in Norway. I'm grateful of how supportive the school has been."

Headmaster David Hyman said: "Our pupils' activities outside of school are also important to us, especially when they are as passionate as Freya is. We like to support our students and their hobbies as much as possible and encourage them to pursue their interests. Freya has done incredibly well and is a talented footballer. I very much hope she will be selected for the Scottish team in March."

Portland Place School is a leading independent co-educational school for children aged 9-18, located directly in the heart of the City of Westminster.

For more information on the school you can visit the website: www.portland-place.co.uk or call 020 7307 8700.



■ NATIONAL RECOGNITION: Westminster footballer Freya Glen with her Scottish cap



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Lucky for some: fat cats escape scrutiny again

SMEs accounted for 60 per cent of private sector employment at the beginning of 2015 and are truly the lifeblood of our economy; without their innovation, trail-blazing initiatives and honest contribution to our society, the UK's financial position would be less Richard Branson and more Kanye West – who claims to be in \$53million worth of debt despite being the 'world's greatest rock star', or at least I'm told.

Big business no doubt makes a significant contribution to Mr Osborne's balance sheet; however, it's clear to see from recent newspaper headlines that more needs to be done to improve transparency in order to avoid any repeat offending by the likes of Google, Starbucks and Facebook, to name just a few.

The issue of transparency spans much more than financial issues and barely-legal tax avoidance practices. This week the fat cats were left with all nine lives intact after plans to force companies with more than 250 employees to disclose how much they are paying male and female staff were postponed until at least 2018.

Under the plans, a league table of around 8,000 firms, which would name and shame the worst offenders, will be published in the hopes of tackling a problem that is almost unimaginable, yet continues to exist in the 21st century. I support the plans, so much so that I see no reason as to why it shouldn't be expanded to include every business. It's common sense that men and women should be paid the same, but as we all know, common sense ain't that common.

Ever since I launched our in-house apprenticeship programme I've been tirelessly trying to attract more women into the trades, which is often unfairly stereotyped as being a male-only industry.

Over the years I have managed to address this imbalance and could wax lyrically about the success of our female employees, and have in fact done so when I welcomed the Employment Minister, Esther McVey, to Pimlico's Lambeth HQ as part of the Not Just For Boys campaign, an initiative which aims to inspire a generation of young women.

At Pimlico we are actively seeking to attract more women into our trade department, but it's also important that there is a strong gender mix across all areas of the business, from accounts and HR through to recruitment and our call centre.

The gender pay gap is something that defies all logic and needs to be tackled head on – it is unacceptable at all levels. This is why I would like to see the UK's SMEs once again demonstrate their integrity and progressive attitude, by encouraging the government to include businesses of all sizes in any gender pay gap plans.

If, like I said earlier, SMEs account for 60 per cent of private sector employment, then everyone should share their payroll documents and show society that the amount in your pay packet at the end of the month is determined by ability and hard work, not your gender. Hopefully this plan, which itself doesn't discriminate, will help us to fully eliminate an archaic problem that has no place in the UK, once and for all.

Views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of this newspaper



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LONDON WIDE

Child mental health: following Kate's lead

BY GEOFF BAKER

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FOLLOWING calls by the Duchess of Cambridge for more action to help children with mental health problems, Kensington and Chelsea health chiefs are to introduce a 24-hour emergency helpline in a bid to help save the 900 or so primary children in the borough who are at risk of a long life of misery.

Last week the Duchess launched the Young Minds Matter campaign, calling for the taboo of child mental health to be broken. Working from a temporary newsroom at Kensington Palace as guest editor of *The Huffington Post*, she wrote that for too long parents have been "embarrassed" to admit children need psychiatric care, worried of the stigma this may attract.

But she said it was time for our perception of mental illness to change, and said she and her husband, the Duke of Cambridge, "would not hesitate" to seek help if their children, two-year-old George and nine-month-old Charlotte, needed it.

Now investigations have revealed that action on child mental health is urgently needed in the Duchess's own "back yard", the royal borough of Kensington and Chelsea, where thousands of children and young people are in need of help.

Official figures in a health report for Kensington and Chelsea Council have revealed that:

■ "Almost 8,000 children and young people in Kensington and Chelsea are likely to be in need of mental health information, advice and support".

■ "An estimated 2,300 children have some type of mental health disorder."

■ "About 900 children have a serious mental health disorder".

■ "One in five children diagnosed with a mental health disorder are likely to have more than one disorder".

■ "About 900 pupils in maintained primary schools and 600 in secondary schools are likely to be in need of mental health support."

Local health chiefs are backing the Duchess of Cambridge's campaign for greater awareness and support of child mental health because experts calculate



■ CAMPAIGNER: The Duchess of Cambridge

that poor mental health in children frequently leads to a lifetime problem.

Local figures reveal that mental ill health is 14 times more likely than cancer to cause of life of disability.

A report for the Kensington & Chelsea Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy states that "the main cause of life with disability" is mental ill health – which causes 42 per cent of life-long disablements. By comparison, heart disease causes six per cent and cancer three per cent.

The report states: "Around half of people with lifetime mental problems experience their first symptoms by the age of 14."

Endorsing the Duchess's plea for more action on child mental health, it adds: "By promoting good mental health and intervening early, particularly in the crucial childhood and teenage years, we can help to prevent mental illness from developing and mitigate its effects when it does. It is important to recognise that there is much we can do to protect and promote well-being and resilience in our early years, into adulthood and then on to a healthy old age. Taking a life course approach and embedding provision for good mental health into all of our work is essential, especially given the fact that 42 per cent of people experiencing life with disability in our borough do so as a result of mental ill health."

But now the Central & North West London NHS Trust, which

covers Kensington and Chelsea, is to act and set up an emergency mental health child line and a "rapid response team" which will be on hand for children, young people and parents 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

The dedicated Single Point of Access line will immediately connect children with mental health issues with experts who can help.

The child line, which will be established later this year, follows the introduction in November of an adult Single Point of Access line which has been used more than 1,700 times in the past three months, with 500 callers needing urgent or emergency help.

The Single Point of Access adult line is 0800 0234 650.

A spokesman for the CNWL Trust said: "The Single Point of Access is open 24 hours a day 365 days a year, and staffed by mental health professionals who answer the calls to support patients through the system."

"CNWL's home treatment teams now include a 24-hour rapid response service to accept direct referrals from the Single Point of Access and the Trust has redesigned its adult community mental health services to bring together the assessment and brief treatment teams and community recovery teams to form locality community mental health teams."

Selena Cox, CNWL's Single Point of Access Manager, added: "Some patients felt they were passed between services, didn't know who to call and they were stuck in care for too long. We make the process simple – one number to call; there is no wrong front door."

"We try to get a picture of someone's needs – are they safe at that point in time? Fifty per cent of calls come through as urgent but that's not always the case."

"By taking people through an assessment of the risks, we arrive at a good clinical judgement about them. We have a doctor in the team too in case a GP wants to discuss the case in more detail or we need senior clinical leadership."

"The Single Point of Access has received 1,753 referrals

since it opened on 3 November 2015. Of those, over 1,000 needed treatment in our secondary mental health services and just under a third, about 500 people, needed urgent or emergency treatment. We triage the patient and if a patient needs to be seen urgently we call the Rapid Response Team to respond."

"For example, if a GP has someone in the surgery with them then we can send in the Rapid Response Team straight to the GP to see them or if we are worried that

someone is not responding to calls the Rapid Response can visit them too. The team then assess them face-to-face and develop a plan for how to resolve the crisis."

The Trust reports that the main reaction to the helpline has been, "Why didn't someone do this sooner?"

A new survey for the Time To Change campaign, which is organised by the charity Mind and supported by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, has revealed that nearly two thirds of

people in London with mental health problems are left feeling isolated (65 per cent), worthless (57 per cent) and ashamed (60 per cent) because of the stigma and discrimination they have faced for their illness.

Sue Baker, Director of Time to Change, said: "This survey shows that stigma is still having a huge impact on how people feel about themselves and holding back their lives. We need to replace silence and stigma with talking, greater understanding and support."

Have your say

on proposals for a new dedicated cycle lane at Hammersmith gyratory

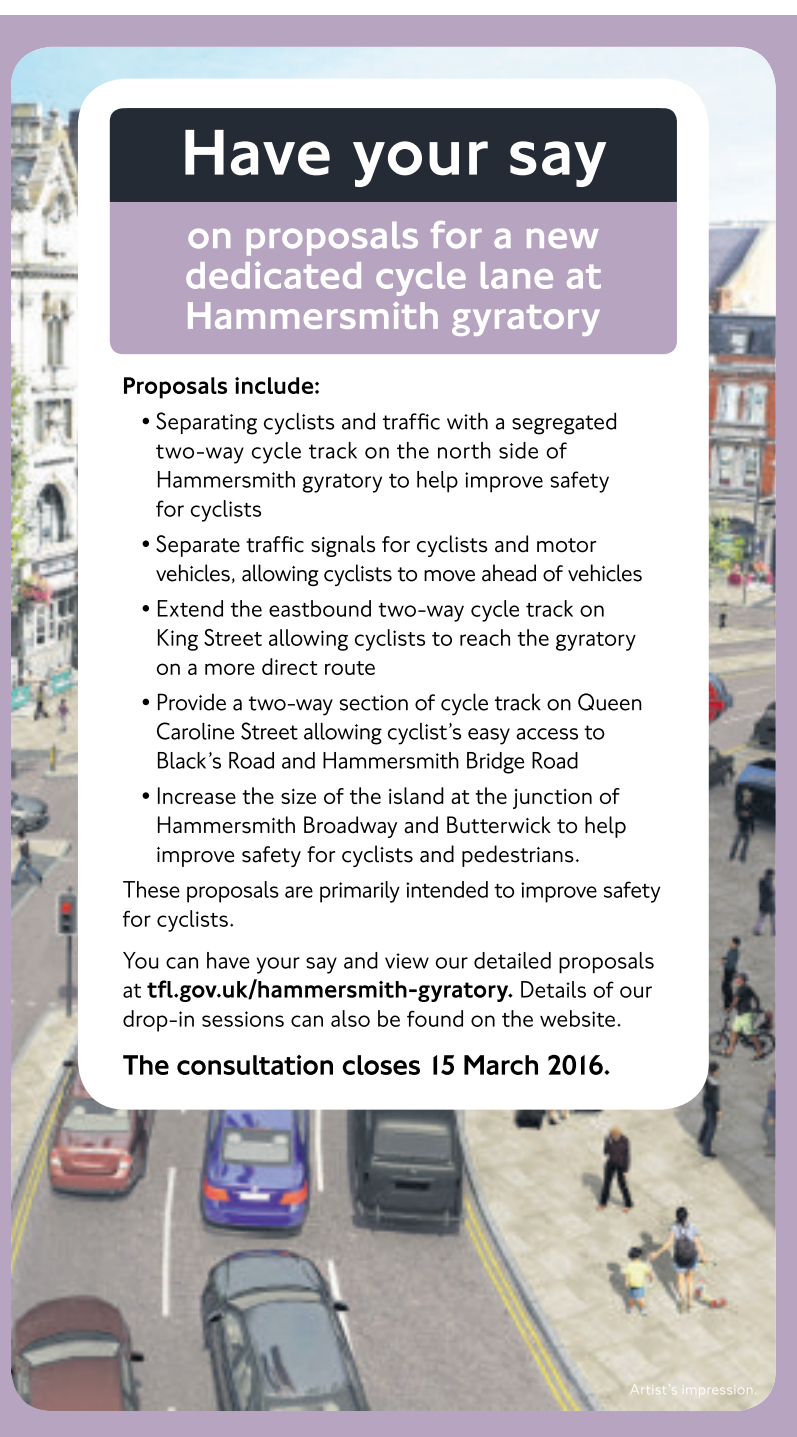
Proposals include:

- Separating cyclists and traffic with a segregated two-way cycle track on the north side of Hammersmith gyratory to help improve safety for cyclists
- Separate traffic signals for cyclists and motor vehicles, allowing cyclists to move ahead of vehicles
- Extend the eastbound two-way cycle track on King Street allowing cyclists to reach the gyratory on a more direct route
- Provide a two-way section of cycle track on Queen Caroline Street allowing cyclist's easy access to Black's Road and Hammersmith Bridge Road
- Increase the size of the island at the junction of Hammersmith Broadway and Butterwick to help improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians.

These proposals are primarily intended to improve safety for cyclists.

You can have your say and view our detailed proposals at tfl.gov.uk/hammersmith-gyratory. Details of our drop-in sessions can also be found on the website.

The consultation closes 15 March 2016.



Artist's impression.

Empire still not ready to strike back

DOZENS more concerts have had to be rescheduled as repair works at one of west London's premier music venues continue to cause problems.

Bosses have confirmed that the 02 Shepherd's Bush Empire will remain closed for several more weeks while maintenance work is carried out on the venue's roof.

It was confirmed last week that repairs will extend into April, with many more shows rearranged, switched to a new venue or cancelled altogether.

Concerts by artists including The Coral and Newton Faulkner have been moved following the announcement, while comedian Ed Byrne's 'Outside, Looking In' show has been moved back to June. The venue has been closed since December 4 last year when

structural issues were discovered hours before a gig was due to start. In a statement, Academy Music Group, which owns the venue, apologised for the delays.

"Following the closure of 02 Shepherd's Bush Empire on Friday December 4 and further inspections, structural engineers have advised that works to the roof structure will extend into April," it said. "We are sorry that these extended restoration works mean that further shows will either be moved to other venues in London or rescheduled as necessary. Once again, we thank artists, promoters and fans for their cooperation and patience and wish to reassure everyone that safety is our priority."

Rock band The Courteeners were due to perform at the iconic venue on December 4 but prob-

lems with the roof led to the sudden postponement.

The venue posted on Twitter at the time that a "structural issue" in the building had forced the closure only hours before the band was due to take to the stage. Several other concerts planned for December and January were rescheduled or moved to other venues, while similar arrangements have now been made for forthcoming dates in February, March and April.

The 112-year-old theatre hosts around 180 events and welcomes 250,000 music fans each year. It was built as a music hall in 1903 and became the BBC's Television Theatre in the 1950s.

A list of rearranged concert dates is available on the venue's website – www.academymusicgroup.com/02shepherdsbushempire

MAYOR OF LONDON

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TRANSPORT
FOR LONDON
EVERY JOURNEY MATTERS

The art of picking winners

A MAJOR exhibition of the private art collection of “the voice of racing”, the late Sir Peter O’Sullivan, will be held at Belgravia’s Osborne Studio Gallery throughout March.

Some of the items to be exhibited at the show of the Chelsea resident’s collection, which will run from March 9 to April 1, will be for sale.

Although Sir Peter was famous as flawless commentator, bon vivant and lover of jazz and birdsong, he was also an art collector and connoisseur of distinction, writes Geoff Baker:

“His Chelsea flat was crammed with paintings and sculpture, most of them equestrian subjects, but also works from his travels to remote places, especially in North Africa,” said a spokeswoman for the gallery of which Sir Peter became chairman after his retirement.

“The Osborne Studio Gallery will show many works owned by Sir Peter, together with a number of bequeathed works from his collection. A beneficiary of these sales will be the Peter O’Sullivan Charitable Trust. The period of the exhibition includes the four days of the Cheltenham Festival, his favourite time of the year.

“The exhibition will show a selection of precious relics, to ‘open a window’ on both his private and public life, on and off the Turf. Highlights include racing commentary charts, a musical greeting from Andrew Lloyd Webber, and even the script for his appearance on *The Morecambe and Wise Show*.”

In a personal memoir for the exhibition, Osborne Gallery director Geoffrey Hughes said: “Soon after I set up the Osborne Studio Gallery in 1986 I had a visit, quite out of the blue, from my boyhood hero. Ahead of the game, as ever, he had heard that our gallery was to specialise in racing and equestrian art. From day one he offered enormous encouragement and support and I was, of course, over the moon that a man I idolised should take such an interest in this new enterprise.

“Over the subsequent years we developed a strong friendship. In 1998, soon after his final commentary and retirement on Hennessy Gold Cup day the previous November I, on a whim, and assisted by plentiful Dutch courage, asked Peter whether he would consider becoming our chairman. He did not give me an immediate answer but, to my amazement, he rang the next day to say he would be delighted to do so.

“Over the next 18 years OSG had tremendous support from Peter. With his ever discerning eye, he loved coming to the private views, and his presence and infectious sense of humour always ensured lively interaction- and the possibility of a little bit of innocent gossip!

“As the years went by, his love of art became increasingly apparent to me and I always kept a chilled bottle close at hand for his frequent visits! His inquisitive and intelligent nature observed hidden depths in the paintings that others, including myself, often missed.

“Racing art was his great love but, beyond that, he collected works from his travels, particularly from North Africa, seeking out artists in remote places.

“Interestingly, subjects incorporating Pierrot are well represented in his collection. I did once ask him, after a memorably convivial evening, why clowns were so close to his heart. As was so often the case with Peter, after an evening of bonhomie, when it comes to reporting his answer, my



RACING GIANTS: Lester Piggott and Willie Carson, pastel, by John Skeaping, 1990



KEEN EYE: Portrait of Sir Peter with binoculars, oil on Canvas, by Jonny Jonas



RACE DAY: The Paddock, charcoal and pastel, by Jay Kirkman, (Jonathan Cooper Gallery) – one of many evocative racing pictures in Peter O’Sullivan’s collection

evening about five years ago, Peter opened the second bottle of rosé and broached a matter which had been exercising him. When the time came, what was to be done with all the documentary material which he had accumulated, and which was now occupying so many nooks and crannies in Cranmer Court? Would I care to take custody of it?

“Of course I would. He had already given me the 51 scrapbooks into which he had pasted cuttings of everything he had written during his long career as a journalist, and although the sheer mass of other material in the flat was daunting, to go through it was the racing historian’s equivalent of Howard Carter opening Tutankhamun’s tomb.

“A self-acknowledged hoarder, Peter had kept a huge amount of material which recorded his life, from those extraordinary commentary charts which he had so diligently annotated with facts and figures about the race in prospect, to extensive correspondence with a wide circle of friends and fans on a huge variety of racing and non-racing subjects, plus a host of betting vouchers (most of them showing a profit) and all manner of other ephemera. Here was a treasure trove, spilling out of every cupboard and drawer.

“After Peter died I started working through the cornucopia he had left behind, and what made perusal of this material so riveting was the unexpected.

“There is the leaflet which he planned to smuggle into Germany in July 1939, exhorting workers to resist the Nazis – a scheme foiled when travel restrictions came into force.

“There is the script, tweaked with the perfectionist O’Sullivan pen, for his appearance on *The Morecambe and Wise Show*. There is a musical greeting from Andrew Lloyd Webber to mark his retirement, and the letter from Albert Roux declaring Peter’s beloved miniature poodle Topolina ‘a welcome visitor of Le Gavroche and all other Roux enterprises where she is renowned for her impeccable conduct.’

“And there are sheaves of old betting vouchers, notably one from William Wood Turf Accountants closing Peter’s account: ‘After three years during which you have won consistently, we shall have to give you best odds and ask you to bet elsewhere. You are too good for us!’

“We have tried to reflect that variety in the items on display in this exhibition, but the most evocative reminders of ‘The Voice’ at his greatest remain those extraordinary commentary charts which so graphically bear witness to his fastidious preparation before a big race.

“Look at the chart for Nijinsky’s Derby, or Grundy and Bustinio’s King George, or one of Red Rum’s Grand Nationals, and you hear Peter’s commentary in your mind’s ear.

“Since his death we have unearthed more and more material in the flat – his chart for Sir Ivor’s Derby, a precious relic, was found in a kitchen drawer – and over the next few months the whole archive will be organised to form a resource not only for racing historians but for those studying the wider canvas of twentieth-century social history.

“Some items will be bequeathed and a few will be sold, and the remaining collection will enjoy a safe haven in The Cox Library of racing books (www.thecoxlibrary.com) – a happy arrangement which will meet Peter’s desire that his papers should be available in perpetuity. Future researchers have a real treat in store.”

memory fails! Perhaps another may know the answer to this? His beloved wife, Pat, could well have been a possible influence.

“All his life Peter was intrigued by artists and as early as the late 1930s he became friends with many prominent painters and sculptors. John Skeaping became a life-long comrade in arms. They shared a much loved greyhound called Slim, whom they raced at White City just after the War, providing many memorable jaunts.

“Sir Alfred Munnings and Edward Seago also became friends and, in recent years, leading international equestrian artists were willingly cajoled into using their talents to benefit his highly successful annual charitable trust lunch and auction. These acclaimed artists are too numerous to mention, but Peter was enormously respectful of their creativity. Unusually acknowledgement was always made in his commentaries to any trophy or work of art presented; a further legacy of the great man.

“In this retrospective, we have borrowed a number of bequeathed works for which we are sincerely thankful. Many others are for sale, of which The Peter O’Sullivan Charitable Trust will be a beneficiary. Additionally we have borrowed photographs and ephemera in an attempt to open a window on both his private and public life, on and off the turf. His natural modesty forbade it, but every indication I had from our conversations in the latter part of his life, suggested he would love others to share some of these memories.

“I also think that he would have appreciated how appropriate it is that the period of the exhibition includes the four days of the Cheltenham Festival. It is no secret that this was his favourite time of the year.”

Sir Peter’s close friend, the racing journalist Sean Magee, added: “One

LONDON WIDE

Improve your research, say health experts

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

LONDONERS are more likely to spend time thoroughly researching household handymen and car mechanics than cosmetic surgeons or healthcare professionals.

With negative stories pervading the headlines about dubious procedures, a new survey reveals that 32 per cent of participants quoted word of mouth as a source of information when seeking advice on health matters such as cosmetic surgery or dentistry rather than speaking with consultants directly (26 per cent) or reading specialist professional media (over 16 per cent).

Over 37 per cent of respondents stated that they were most likely to scrutinise household handymen while more



■ **ADVICE:** Dr Foued Hamza

than 46 per cent said that they would carefully examine various holiday packages before booking. 37 per cent of participants proclaimed that they would make further enquiries about financial service offerings and 30 per cent would investigate real estate companies.

Whereas just over 25 per cent and 10 per cent would take the same amount of care to research a cosmetic surgeon and healthcare professional respectively.

Dr Foued Hamza, cosmetic surgeon consulting at Queen Anne Street Medical Centre, off Harley Street in London, says: "Cosmetic surgery is a life changing procedure so it's concerning that these results reveal that people aren't taking adequate measures to research their medical practitioner sufficiently and this could indicate that Brits are too trusting of something as important as our health.

"It's crucial that you always check a practitioner's qualifications and read testimonials and reviews to find out about their reputation.

"Speak to previous patients to hear about their experience and even go and get a second

opinion with another doctor to compare.

"To avoid any potential confusion or misunderstanding about the health and medical status of a patient, it is imperative before any cosmetic procedure takes place that the patient must discuss his/her health with the surgeon and have an honest and truthful conversation about any medication they are taking, and the surgeon must discuss the procedure in full.

"This should be backed up in

writing by the use of a consent form so no procedure relies on verbal communications.

"The consent form is legal proof that the surgeon has discussed every aspect relating to potential risk before surgery takes place – invasive or non-invasive. Even if the form is completed in advance of the surgery day, the consultant must always go through the form on the day and check if anything has changed. This form is then kept on file for several years. Without

these measures in place, people could be left in the hands of unscrupulous practitioners."

Dr Hamza is a cosmetic sculptor with an international reputation. He has been practising cosmetic surgery for over 20 years and is ranked as one of the best practitioners in his field. He is currently consulting at Queen Anne Street Medical Centre, a modern and comfortable practice in the heart of London.

For further information, visit www.drhamza.co.uk

Making the most of the opportunity



UNDER THE WESTWAY

Fiona Ramsey, new trustee of the Westway Trust, talks about the opportunities, as she sees them, for the Trust in the years ahead

BEFORE I explain the opportunities, as I see them, for the Westway Trust, here is a bit of background about me that provides some context.

I've always been a truly passionate person, so it was inevitable that I would seek a career in the arts – music, to be precise. My experience in the music industry is wide ranging. I have worked with major names in the industry – at BMG records I worked with artists like Usher, Outkast, Pink and Alicia Keys. I have played a role in helping young people into the industry too – during my time with Liverty we founded a six-month paid work placement for 16 to 21-year-olds called 'Music 4 Good'.

We worked with young people who were not given the opportunities to work in the entertainment sector. Music 4 Good provided access to paid work placements in the music industry.

I have also done charitable work in the past. I worked closely with Alicia Keys and Leigh Blake on the launch of the charity 'Keep a Child Alive.' Its mission was to get life-saving HIV medication to

children in Africa. So as you can see, I am passionate about opportunities, education and entertainment. These passions allow me a unique perspective on the kind of provision Westway Trust should be making for the arts.

I also have a strong affinity to this part of London. I grew up in White City and attended Burlington Danes School and about eight years ago I moved to the Dalgarno Ward area.

I've been an avid carnival-goer all my life; and spent many nights at Subterranea where I arranged showcases for some of the American artists. This is a diverse neighbourhood, with people from a whole range of backgrounds and I want Westway Trust to represent the very different facets of the area in which I live.

I decided to join the Board of Westway Trust because after many discussions with people in the area I saw many things being planned and a lot of changes happening. I wanted to be a part of making the decisions which affect the area in which I live. I believe that in order to make a change you have to have a voice from

within as well as from the outside.

I know some people see the Trust as detached and opaque, and I've had my own issues in dealing with it before I became a trustee, but where there are challenges there are also opportunities.

I want to be a part of an organisation that's in a great position to make a positive difference to North Kensington. I've recently been involved in many meetings at the Trust and met a lot of the staff. I can see a desire to be more inclusive and to engage with people. I want to make sure the intentions of those in Westway Trust lead to good decisions and decision-making to be more transparent. Due to the vast amount of technology at hand we can reach out and understand the people we're here to serve. I've already expressed to the staff regarding how my own experience might be helpful here.

I'm particularly keen to see the Trust engage with young people more, offering different types of activities such as reading classes, poetry, activities – things which will expand the minds of the next generation. To attract young people, social media is also something we should be embracing. I have worked with the Hip Hop Shakespeare Company (THSC) that is based in the Ladbroke Grove area. It offers workshops and educational programmes to young people about the works of Shakespeare and hip hop. A great example that we could learn from.

I'm excited to be a trustee of the Westway Trust. It's an organisation with an incredible opportunity to play a great role in a unique part of London. I really hope that I can be one of many people who play a part in making the most of the opportunities going forward.

Where To Find Your Local Favourite Free Newspaper

Westminster & Pimlico NEWS

pick up points

Sainsbury's Store	Melbourne Avenue	West Ealing	W13 9BZ
Tesco Metro	94 Church Street	Paddington	NW8 8EX
Tesco Classic Metro	17-25 Regent Street	London	SW1Y 4LR
Sainsbury's Store	36 Stratton Street	Mayfair	W1J 8LT
Sainsbury's Store	15-17 Tottenham Court Road	Central London	W1T 1BJ
Co-op	504-506 Harrow Road	Paddington	W9 3QA
Tesco Classic Metro	22-25 Bedford Street	London	WC2E 9EQ
Co-op	Golden Cross House	London	WC2R 0RG
Notting Hill Gate Library	1 Pembridge Square	Notting Hill	W2 4EW
Kensal Library	20 Golborne Road		W10 5PF
Cosch & Horses Pub	23 Greek Street	Soho	W1D 5DH
Pimlico Library	Lopus Street	Pimlico	SW1V 3EY

Kensington & Chelsea NEWS

pick up points

Kensington Central Library	Philmore Walk	Kensington	W8 7RX
North Kensington Library	108 Ladbroke Grove	Kensington	W11 1PZ
Brompton Library	210 Old Brompton Road	London	SW5 0BS
The Tabernacle, Notting Hill	35 Powis Square	Notting Hill	W11 2AY
Chelsea Library	Chelsea Old Town Hall	Chelsea	SW3 5EZ
Chelsea Sports Centre	Chelsea Manor Street	Chelsea	SW3 5PL
Avonmore Lib. & Neighbourhood Ctr	North End Crescent		W14 8TG

Fulham Chronicle

pick up points

Fulham Library	598 Fulham Road		SW6 5NX
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Hammersmith CHRONICLE

pick up points

The Grove Neighbourhood Centre	7 Bradmore Park Road	Hammersmith	W6 0DT
Hammersmith Library	Shepherd's Bush Road		W6 7AT

Shepherd's Bush CHRONICLE

pick up points

Westfield Library	6 Wood Lane		W12 7BF
Askew Road Library	87-91 Askew Road		W12 9AS

LONDON WIDE

D-day for new development

CONSERVATIONISTS are calling on councillors to shelve controversial proposals to tear down Victorian buildings in Ealing Broadway and put up new homes and shops in their place.

The destiny of the second phase of the Arcadia development opposite Ealing Broadway station looks set to be determined at an Ealing Council planning committee meeting on Thursday, February 25.

Development managers Londonnewcastle, together with site owners Benson Elliot, want to redevelop 9-42 The Broadway and transform it into 188 homes, 20 new shops, a new pedestrian route and a 5,000 square feet music venue.

But Heritage England's David English, opposes the idea. he said: "The Ealing town centre conservation area will no longer merit its status."

Also opposing the development are the Victorian Society, Ealing Civic Society and Save Ealing's Centre who have launched a petition.

Jewellery taken

POLICE in Westminster are investigating a series of jewellery robberies in which lone woman have been targeted.

Officers report that five similar incidents are being investigated in the borough at present. These have taken place over a five-month period between October 2015 and February 2016.

Estate agents say high streets are 'paved with property gold'

BY LWN REPORTER
editorial@londonweeklynews.co.uk

THE number of estate agents opening in London is booming.

Latest figures show an increase of more than eight per cent – that's a new estate agent's office opening every 1.6 days.

Property prices in the capital have rocketed because of high demand and a lack of supply, according to research carried out by online estate agents *HouseSimple.com*.

There are currently just under 2,900 estate agents in London, up by 220 in the past 12 months (2,661 agents in February, 2015). In Westminster alone, the number of estate agents has increased by more than a quarter (27.4 per cent) in a year, from 179 to 228. More than a third of London boroughs (11 out of 32) now have more than 100 estate agents each.

With demand for property in London showing little signs of cooling and average property prices in the capital up almost 17 per cent in the past year, according to the Halifax, high street estate agents have been opening new offices at the rate of 18 a month.

HouseSimple.com figures reveal that there are now an average of 90 estate agent branches in every London borough. Islington has seen the number of high street agents rise by 26.1 per cent in a year, while the borough of Hammersmith and Fulham has seen a 15.9 per cent increase. The only borough to experience a drop in the number

of estate agents in the past 12 months is Enfield, with a 6.5 per cent fall.

Experts say the sheer number of estate agent branches in London highlights a concern over the lack of diversity on many of the capital's local high streets.

HouseSimple.com calculated how many estate agents there are on popular London high streets, by counting the number of estate agent branches within a quarter of a mile of major Tube stations.

The research revealed that Walthamstow and Borough both have a staggering 18 estate agents within a quarter of a mile of their respective tube stations. Wimbledon, Ealing Broadway, Canary Wharf and Turnham Green each have 17.

Alex Gosling, the chief executive of *HouseSimple.com*, said: "Estate agents have been making hay while the sun shines, opening more than 200 new offices in just 12 months. It's not surprising, when just one office can make hundreds of thousands of pounds in fees in a year. London high streets are literally paved with property gold.

"It's impossible to walk down a local high street in London now without passing an estate agent's window, but Londoners will still be surprised to know there are almost 3,000 estate agents in the capital.

"It's a staggering number, particularly when you consider most people now start their property searches online, and may never actually venture into a high street agent's office."

However, Londoners struggling to buy a home will be thrown a lifeline from April as a shake-up of the shared-ownership rules will mean that 175,000 more Londoners are eligible for this route to owning a home.

Planners demand that affordable housing is integrated with more expensive private housing, so often flats are for sale at swish developments where open-market homes cost millions of pounds.

For example, the Jes-sops building at New Providence Wharf in Docklands has flats from £96,563 for 25 per cent. Call Genesis on 0800 954 0040.

London borough	Number of estate agents in borough (2015)	Number of estate agents in borough (2016)	% rise/fall in estate agents numbers in the past 12 months
Barking & Dagenham	25	28	12.0
Barnet	122	125	2.5
Bexley	52	55	5.8
Brent	60	64	6.7
Bromley	110	116	5.5
Camden	109	120	10.1
Croydon	98	103	5.1
Ealing	87	91	4.6
Enfield	92	86	-6.5
Greenwich	64	70	9.4
Hackney	65	74	13.8
Hammersmith & Fulham	82	95	15.9
Haringey	58	61	5.2
Harrow	67	67	0
Havering	53	56	5.7
Hillingdon	69	73	5.8
Hounslow	59	65	10.2
Islington	88	111	26.1
Kensington & Chelsea	127	137	7.9
Kingston upon Thames	58	64	10.3
Lambeth	79	85	7.6
Lewisham	71	79	11.3
Merton	62	64	3.2
Newham	74	76	2.7
Redbridge	77	77	0
Richmond upon Thames	91	101	11.0
Southwark	92	103	12.0
Sutton	46	50	8.7
Tower Hamlets	131	135	3.1
Waltham Forest	61	62	1.6
Wandsworth	153	160	4.6
Westminster	179	228	27.4
TOTAL	2,661	2,881	8.3

Solar future should be bright

LONDON has the potential to deliver a massive increase in solar power over the next decade, according to a report released this week by campaign group Greenpeace, which is calling on all of the London mayoral candidates to come forward with a detailed plan to boost the city's flagging solar industry.

The report comes as the capital has become the worst performing major city and region in the UK for solar adoption.

Mayoral hopefuls Sadiq Khan (Labour) and the Conservatives' Zac Goldsmith, have said they want to boost the city's solar sector, but the

Greenpeace report challenges them to adopt specific policies to improve the adoption of solar technologies across the capital.

The report highlights how just 0.5 per cent of London's 3.4 million homes use solar power, lagging far behind adoption rates in the rest of the country.

It argues that a raft of policies could drive faster adoption of solar technologies, including "establishing a London Solar Task Force to bring together communities, investors, and industry groups; installing solar panels in unused spaces owned by Transport for London and

City Hall; and loaning out roof space to community energy projects".

The report also suggests that so-called green bonds could be issued to fund solar projects in the capital. Furthermore, the report makes the case for a London equivalent of the feed-in tariff to restore some of the incentives cut last year by the government.

The campaign group said analysis by the consultants Energy for London showed these measures could deliver a ten-fold increase in solar power across London by 2025, delivering solar panels on close to 200,000 London rooftops.

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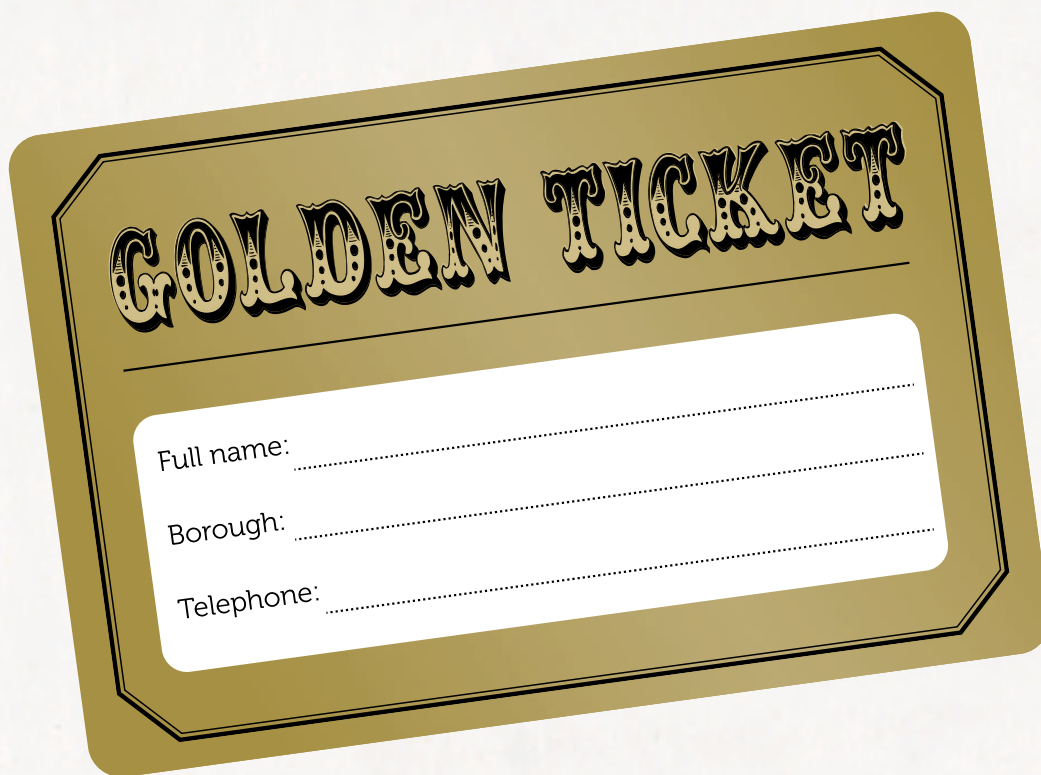
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LONDON WIDE

Royal Albert Hall is going to the movies

BY NICKY SWEETLAND
nicky@londonweeklynews.co.uk

DINOSAURS and aliens are set to inhabit the Royal Albert Hall later this year as the world famous venue unveils its inaugural film festival.

Some of the most famous film scores of all time will be performed live to accompany screenings of smash hit films including *Independence Day*, *Jurassic Park* and *Aliens*.

London's beloved concert hall will host a programme of film-and-live-orchestra which also includes 90s action blockbusters *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Gladiator* and *ET* – and a dazzling new show celebrating classic westerns.

As a special treat for *Independence Day* fans, the one-off, 20th anniversary event will also include a unique pre-show talk from composer David Arnold, discussing his work scoring *Independence Day*, *Sherlock* and five Bond films – as well as the closing ceremony of the 2012 Olympics – before the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra takes to the stage to accompany the movie in full.

Mr Arnold said: "The Royal Albert Hall is such an iconic venue and a personal favourite of mine – it's always an honour to be on the stage, especially with your own material. The Hall screams 'event' and *Independence Day* was one of the biggest event movies of the last 30 years.

"Hopefully my pre-film talk will get people excited all over again to see it and to really appreciate the amazing work that is being done by Nicholas Dodd – in both his orchestrations and conducting – and also the players, who may not have much puff left at the end of the evening."

Lucy Noble, director of events at the venue, said: "David is one of the most dis-

tinctive and important composers around today, and *Independence Day* is among his most striking works: a stirring, Grammy-winning soundtrack to a riotously enjoyable blockbuster.

"As part of the event, fans will also get a rare chance to hear David talk about his ground-breaking and wide-ranging career working on many of the most popular and important pop cultural phenomena of his era, from landmark TV shows to unforgettable films, as well as a night that made Britain the centre of the universe."

Independence Day is a thrilling, all-action movie – directed by Roland Emmerich – about a bunch of disparate Americans banding together to see off a terrifying alien invasion. It confirmed Will Smith's status as a major new star and features commanding supporting performances from Jeff Goldblum, Bill Pullman, Mary McDonnell and Randy Quaid.

It was the most popular film of its year – second only then to *Jurassic Park* in the all-time box-office list – and won an Oscar for its jawdropping effects work. A long-awaited sequel arrives at cinemas in June.

The hall's pioneering film-and-live-orchestra programme launched in 2009 with *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy and scored recent sell-out shows, including *West Side Story*, *Titanic* and *Gladiator* – which returns in May.

This year the programme also contains the John Williams' classic score to *Jurassic Park*, as the venue hosts the world premiere of Steven Spielberg's 1993 masterpiece as a film-and-live-orchestra extravaganza.

The shows on November 4 and 5 will see the film screened in full – and in high-definition on a giant screen – as the unforgettable music is played live on stage by the Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra.



■ **ACTION PACKED:** David Arnold, who composed the theme to the blockbuster movie *Independence Day*, will take part later this year in a powerful combination of cinematography and music at the Royal Albert Hall

Accolades for garden design students

LONDON College of Garden Design graduates triumphed once again at last month's Society of Garden Designers Awards – with two graduates receiving two awards each.

Emily Erlam won in the Small Budget Garden category for The Experimental Station, for which the judges said: "A modest design that is fundamentally more interesting because of it. Simple but fun."

Emily was also jointly awarded the Future Designer award for her "interesting modern take on a country garden" built by Landform Consultants.

She said: "To win an award is an amazing feeling. For me the award was an opportunity to take a pause and reflect on the success of the garden and know for this moment, this garden was recognised for being great."

An LCGD graduate once again triumphed in the Student of the Year Award with Tom Massey, who graduated in 2015, winning both domestic and commercial categories for work completed on his one-year garden design diploma course.

Tom said: "Having my work singled out and praised by judges Sarah Eberle and Cleve West, both multiple award-winning designers, was an honour. LCGD provided me with an inspiring education; hopefully winning the awards will provide the catalyst I need to launch my new career."

Andrew Wilson, director of garden design studies at LCGD, said: "We're delighted that our students are leaving the college with a firm basis in design that is recognised by the Society of Garden Designers. To have graduates winning awards so consistently is testament to the skill and professionalism of our tutors and lecturers that they meet on the course."

The college, based at Kew, also offers short courses there, at RHS Garden Wisley, Regent's University in central London and at its satellite hub in Crewe.

Clear square of Yodas, please

THE north end of Trafalgar Square should be cleared of buskers and Yoda street performers, according to the National Gallery's new director.

At the opening of a new exhibition, Gabriele Finaldi said he wanted to make the area around the gallery "a space that works for us", *The Times* reports.

The paved area has become a popular place for street artists, especially people dressed as "levitating Yodas".

During the opening of *Delacroix and the Rise of Modern Art*, Mr Finaldi recalled how when he worked for the gallery in the 1990s the North Terrace was a street.

"I don't remember the bagpipes or the Yodas or the oompah band player who shoots flames out of his tuba or the Elvis impersonator or the West African evangelist preacher," he said.

The area was pedestrianised in 2003 and attracts performers who arrive early each morning to claim the best spot.

Trafalgar Square is looked after by Westminster City Council. It said it wanted to make sure "we keep a vibrant feel to the area".

Cheers! Offices allowed the beer essentials

AN enterprising office facility in Soho is treating thirsty workers – by offering them unlimited beer on tap for free.

At WeWork's premises, people renting desk space have been able to enjoy an alcoholic drink in the office since last April.

But the rental company's bosses said they were unaware that they needed to have a licence to serve alcohol at the premises.

Westminster Council this week granted the office rental operator permission for the tap to remain after the firm's lawyers made representations to

a council committee. Explaining the concept to the committee, solicitor for WeWork Craig Baylis said: "It's Friday, and I've had enough."

"I go to the beer tap, help myself with my mug or whatever then I go back to my office and drink my beer while I finish off my work. There's nothing to stop anyone from taking the beer back to their screen."

Mr Baylis added that the beer tap was available for office workers to help themselves "whenever they want" but stressed it was not a facility that was "abused".

"Those using the office space don't want to spend their entire day drinking free booze," Mr Baylis said.

Despite the application being approved, committee chair councillor Angela Harvey pointed out that beer was the only alcoholic beverage on offer, telling Mr Baylis: "So, it's just beer for the boys then."

The WeWork network has eight other hireable office spaces across London which offer a free licensed beer tap, including in Spitalfields, Old Street, Moorgate and the South Bank.

WeWork offers office space

for hire across the world, with desks available in Soho from £475 per month.

The firm says on its website: "We are helping to create a world where people work to make a life, not just a living. There has been a macro shift towards a new way of work – one focused on a movement towards meaning. WeWork is accelerating this movement."

The firm says of its Soho facility: "Once a music publishing house, the WeWork Soho location is now a tight-knit entrepreneurial community. The historic building is centrally lo-

cated and retains much of its original charm, like its large bay windows and exposed brick walls. It's the perfect spot for anyone in the creative industry."

■ **OUR ROUND:** Workers enjoy a free drink at WeWork in Soho



LONDON WIDE

Pupils go extra mile for school

MORE London pupils cross council boundaries to attend school than anywhere else in England, according to London Councils, which represents the 32 boroughs and the City of London.

More than 136,000 pupils educated in the capital are being taught at a school outside of the local authority they live in, 13 per cent of the total. This is double the proportion of pupils who cross council boundaries to attend school or college in England as a whole.

This figure includes more than 80,000 secondary school students, 20 per cent of London's secondary school population. This is more than double the nine per cent of secondary school students in England who do this.

In Greater Manchester, which is an urban area comparable with London, 22,474 pupils attend a school outside the local authority they live in, 6 per cent of the total number of pupils being educated there.

Cllr Peter John, London Councils' executive member for children, skills and employment, said: "London's schools are the best performing in the country and the capital's extensive transport network means that parents have the option to choose the right school for their child no matter where they live. As a result, London pupils are more likely to travel across a council boundary to attend school.

"As the government seeks to review school funding, it is of paramount importance that no child in London is disadvantaged by reforms. High cross-border movement is just one example of how unique and complex London's education system is."

■ GET REGISTERED: The Electoral Commission has enlisted the support of Hollyoaks actors in a campaign to encourage young people to register to vote. The commission is targeting 18 to 24-year-olds and private renters with a series of adverts featuring the soap stars, which will air exclusively on Channel 4 and E4 ahead of elections later this year. Research by the commission in 2014 found both groups are less likely to be registered. Around 25% of 18 and 19-year-olds and 30% of 20 to 24-year-olds were unregistered, compared with just 5% of those aged 65 and over. While more than 35% of private renters had not registered, compared with just 6% of people who own their home outright and 11% of home owners with a mortgage had not done so. Channel 4 commissioning editor Lee Mason said Channel 4 and E4 has a "special connection" with younger TV viewers. "I'm thrilled that Hollyoaks, in particular, can play an important role in educating young people of the importance of registering to vote," he said. The advert will feature actors Jennifer Metcalfe, Amanda Clapham, pictured, Jazmine Franks and Duayne Boachie. The public have until April 18 to register to take part in polls this May, which include local council and mayoral elections as well as devolved government elections in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland



Bridge cycle route 'could be improved'

PROPOSALS for a new cycle route over Waterloo Bridge are not safe enough, campaigners insisted this week.

The route from the Southbank to Embankment will form part of the Central London Cycling Grid linking key destinations in London after it was unveiled by Westminster City Council.

It will be used by 579 cyclists an hour during peak times. Single yellow lines have been replaced with double lines and parking is suspended 24 hours a day.

The aim of the route is to "reduce potential conflict" with vehicles and help overcome some of the barriers to cycling for less confident riders.

London Cycling Campaign said while the changes were good news, more still needed to be done to protect cyclists.

Councillor Heather Acton, Westminster City Council's cabinet member for sustainability and parking, said there had been a 20 per cent increase in the number of cyclists using roads in the borough in the last year and the council is "harnessing this enthusiasm" by providing more cycle infrastructure improvements across Westminster.

The council said it would invest £40 million in creating a better environment for cyclist and pedestrians and a number of 'Quietway' cycle routes will be implemented over the next year.

In harmony

A LEADING conductor has backed controversial plans for the £278 million Centre for Music in London.

Yuri Bashmet, director of the New Russia State Symphony Orchestra, urged decision makers to trust the view of Sir Simon Rattle, who has said that the capital lacks a world-class venue.

Chancellor George Osborne and Mayor Boris Johnson have commissioned a £5.5 million development project to build a business case for a 1,900-capacity, state-of-the-art facility on the site of the current Museum of London near the Barbican – and it is scheduled to open in 2023.

Mr Bashmet said the Barbican, Festival Hall and Royal Albert Hall were "very good", but that all great cities needed to "think of the future". He urged people to trust Sir Simon.

Tiny fortune

A TINY and dilapidated store room has been sold for a £82,500 – because it has a fashionable west London postcode, estate agents say.

The cubby-hole in South Kensington was bought at auction last Thursday after the buyer coughed up more than double the guide price of £35,000.

The store room, which boasts a shabby-looking sink and discoloured walls, was not measured by the estate agent, Allsop, but was described as being "very small".

Mayor's special envoys tasked with cracking down on slavery

BY LWN REPORTER
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LONDON Mayor Boris Johnson has appointed two special envoys to help combat human trafficking.

The mayor's longstanding concern about the scale of modern slavery was increased by new Home Office research which estimated there were between 10,000 and 13,000 potential victims in the UK in 2013 and more than half of these were initially located in London and the home counties.

In a bid to raise awareness and help tackle the issue of human trafficking in London, Mr Johnson has appointed Anthony Steen CBE, chairman of the Human Trafficking Foundation, and Sir John Randall, vice-chairman of the Human Trafficking Foundation, as his special envoys.

Through their work for the foundation, both have considerable experience in this field, including Anthony Steen forming the All Party Parliamentary Group on Human Trafficking in 2006 and the foundation playing a pivotal role in the content of the 2010 Anti-Slavery Day Bill.

They will keep the mayor updated on the extent of the problem and measures being taken to tackle human trafficking, including the foundation's own work, for which major funding awards have recently been secured from the Michael Bishop Foundation, partnered by the London's City Bridge Trust.

Current projects include tracking victims once they leave safe houses after the statutory 45 days has expired, to prevent them returning to their traffickers. Hundreds of

trafficked children arrive in the UK from all over the world but go missing soon after they arrive.

Mr Johnson said: "I am delighted that Anthony and John have agreed to become my special envoys for human trafficking and modern day slavery, bringing their knowledge and passion to raise increased awareness of these horrific crimes, which have no place in our capital city or this country."

The appointments build on work the Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime has carried out to help tackle human trafficking. As an associate partner in the European Communities Against Trafficking Project, MOPAC has hosted conferences at City Hall to share learning and good practice across London boroughs.

The Metropolitan Police are also part of the Pan-London

Trafficking Forum, a partnered initiative which co-ordinates and supports activities to drive down modern slavery.

Anthony Steen said: "Although Britain has set the pace in fighting human trafficking worldwide by the introduction of the Modern Slavery Act, it will not on its own rid the nation of modern day slavery."

"Young women continue to be deceived and end up in 'brothels' rather than as restaurant waitresses. Men are regularly misled when accepting work in the construction and hospitality industries, having their passports confiscated and not getting paid, ending up in debt bondage to the traffickers."

"The European Union recent estimates were that at least 150,000 victims a year are trafficked in and around EU countries, with numbers increasing. We want to ensure traffickers

can be discovered at the source, and innocent victims better warned of the dangers of accepting 'too good to be true' job offers.

"There is an unhealthy veil of secrecy which pervades trafficking, which has to be lifted if better results are to be achieved."

Sir John said: "I'm delighted with the mayor's appointment to tackle the problems of modern day slavery, which is growing fast. It is extremely troubling how so many vulnerable victims there are, and how easily they succumb to ruthless and violent traffickers."

"Trafficking is the worst form of modern day slavery, and our task will be to get to grips with the scale and methods used by traffickers and work with agencies and partners on tackling these horrific crimes."

ROYAL LONDON

Queen's chorus of approval

WHO does The Queen listen to on the radio at breakfast these days? It's doubtful that it's the "agenda-setting" *Today* programme, as we now understand that the argumentative Radio 4 flagship leaves Her Majesty vexed and annoyed.

Matthew Bannister, the former Radio 1 chief who now hosts Radio 4's popular obituary show *Last Word*, recently revealed that, along with 57 million other Brits, The Queen is not a fan of *Today*, the current affairs show which has become distinguished by the interruptive grilling that regular hosts John Humphrys and Sarah Montague dish out to their guests, writes Geoff Baker.

Although senior politicians tune in to *Today* to hear who is getting a bashing from Humphrys in his self-made role as Devil's advocate, it appears that The Queen does not join them.

Bannister revealed that when he met The Queen at her visit to Broadcasting House a little while back, he asked her who she listened to in the mornings.

"She said 'Terry Wogan, the *Today* programme makes me

cross',", Bannister announced on Radio 4.

That The Queen was a TOG [Terry's Old Gals] will surprise nobody at the palace. Some years ago, after she was so disappointed that his weekday radio show had been moved to Sunday morning, airing when she was at church, she invited Wogan to dine with her and other VIP guests at Windsor Castle.

According to the time to *The Sunday Telegraph*, for which the national treasure was a columnist, a courtier reported that "Her Majesty was adamant that she should sit next to Wogan", doubtless to catch up on all the chat missed by the obligation to Matins.

To be fair to John Humphrys, he too has been entertained at a private lunch with The Queen – and it was at that occasion at Buckingham Palace that he requested an on-air interview with Her Majesty, who replied with one her classic put-downs.

"She said 'No'," said Humphrys. "And she added, 'What's more, if one were to do an interview it would not be with you'."

But who does Her Majesty listen to when breakfasting on her preferred-brown boiled eggs? It is difficult to believe that her choice is Wogan's replacement,



■ ANNIVERSARY SALUTE: Katherine Jenkins will sing in tribute to the Queen when the monarch marks her 90th birthday

the Chris Evans show, with its playlist regularly featuring the likes of Led Zeppelin, the Stone Roses and Def Leppard.

The smart money is going on

the bet that in the absence of Wogan, The Queen has turned the dial over to Classic FM in order to hear songs by another royal favourite, Katherine Jenkins.

Katherine, dubbed "the new Forces' sweetheart" for her work supporting British troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, is fast becoming the new royals' sweetheart too.

Over the past 10 years Katherine has built up a firm following at Buckingham Palace through her performances for The Queen – at Royal Variety Performances, festivals of remembrance organised by the Royal British Legion, the funeral of Baroness Thatcher and events for VE Day 60 and VE Day 70.

Now the 35-year-old Welsh star is to launch her own series of concerts in tribute to The Queen, with seven shows to mark Her Majesty's 90th birthday this year.

Katherine was personally chosen by The Queen to headline the entertainment at the official birthday celebrations at Windsor Castle, where she will perform to 20,000, including Her Majesty and other members of the royal family, at pageants to be held from May 12 to 15.

Following those gigs, Katherine will give "my very own tribute to Her Majesty" with concerts to mark The Queen's 90th in Birmingham's Symphony Hall on June 15 and at the Royal Albert Hall on June 18. She will be singing royal favourites including *We'll Meet Again*, *Jerusalem*, *Rule Britannia*, *Amazing Grace*, *I Could Have Danced All Night*, *How Great Thou Art* and *Land Of Hope And Glory*.

And now that the Albert Hall

sold out within hours, the official mascot for the Wales rugby union team, who is fast becoming the official mascot for the royal team, has added another date to celebrate The Queen's birthday, at Hampton Court Palace on June 23.

Besides singing for the royals, Katherine has now also been recruited to their "side"; she has just been appointed the first official ambassador for Prince Harry's Invictus Games, which will be held in a giant stadium in Florida in May and where wounded, injured or sick members and veterans of the Armed Services will take part in a Paralympic-style games in Orlando.

President Obama is expected to be Prince Harry's guest at the Invictus Games and Katherine, who has entertained troops in Iraq, is tipped to perform there too.

Katherine, who is also a trustee of the British Forces Foundation and has entertained the troops in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Cyprus and Northern Ireland, said: "Supporting the men, women and families who serve our

country has always been an important part of my life, and I am extremely honoured to serve as an ambassador for the 2016 Invictus Games. I look forward to celebrating and honouring the sacrifices of veteran and active duty service members and their families from around the world in May."

As both the royal family and the Government place a high value on those who support the Services, it would surprise few if Katherine, who was awarded the OBE in 2014, is among the names of those to be made a Dame Commander of the British Empire in The Queen's Birthday Honours List in June.

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

MUSTARD IS THE ANSWER - ALL DAY TRADITIONAL ENGLISH DINING

A new restaurant will be bringing a taste of English tradition to west London when it opens its doors for the first time next week.

Mustard, an all-day dining experience, is offering a mouth-watering menu based on home grown grub straight from the British Isles.

Masterminded by owners Lawrence Hartley, Tim Healy and Jason Wild, Mustard combines comfortable surroundings and fine food at affordable prices.

Carefully sourced from farm to fork, the restaurant's 'British brasserie' theme is set to entice diners from all corners of the capital when it opens in Brook Green, Hammersmith, next month.

Mr Wild, one of the three joint owners behind the venture, will also be heading up a talented kitchen team.

With 26 years experience and a CV that includes stints at the Royal Opera House and the



National Theatre, he is determined to make a success of his latest project.

"There is more than enough good English fare out there," he said. "Now is the time to get in there and get on with it."

"We are really excited to be moving into this part of London. The area has got huge potential."

"Our dream is to run a collection of restaurants but the ethos will remain the same."

Mustard opens for lunchtime and evening service on March 1st. A cake and coffee menu is also available.



ROYAL FAVOURITE: Broadcaster Terry Wogan's breakfast programme was a hit at the palace

Could Hirst art feature in birthday salute to the Queen?

AS enthusiasm mounts for the idea of an exhibition of 90 paintings of The Queen to mark her official birthday this summer, speculation is growing that such a gallery could include a “new” work by Damien Hirst and another by Her Majesty’s favourite rock star.

Hirst’s painting, *Beautiful Portrait, The Queen*, was given to the nation last year by the former ‘bad boy of British art’ and overlooked until it was discovered in a recent inventory of the Government Art Collection.

The portrait, which was created through the “spin” technique that helped to make Hirst famous, has not been displayed in public since it was completed in 2014. But now it is believed to be among the favourites for a possible show of different views of The Queen by big names of the art world, including James Lloyd, Michael Noakes, Susan Ryder, Andy Warhol and perhaps even Lucien Freund, whose portrait of Her Majesty caused much controversy.

Another painter whose work could be included if the idea for 90 portraits is given the green light by Buckingham Palace is Sir Paul McCartney.

Sir Paul is a great admirer of Her Majesty and the feeling is mutual. The Queen has supported a number of his projects, including official opening his fame school, the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts, in 1996, and six years later, she opened an exhibition of his paintings at the city’s Walker Art Gallery.



■ MODERN VIEW: Artist Damien Hirst, the former ‘bad boy’ of British art, produced a painting saluting The Queen

On that occasion the exhibition did not include three paintings which Sir Paul had done of The Queen, entitled *A Greener Queen*, *The Queen Getting A Joke* and *The Queen After Her First Cigarette*.

Sir Paul said at the time: “The gallery had the opportunity to include the pictures – it was up to them.

“I would have been happy to have shown them to The

Queen – they are very affectionate and I think she has a good sense of humour. She’s a fine woman.”

Although the former Beatle’s royal studies were excluded from the Liverpool show, there’s a good chance that one or all of them could hang in a 90 *Faces Of The Queen* exhibition, if it goes ahead, not least as she appears to like his impressionist work.

“I think she liked them. She said they were very colourful and I took that as a great compliment,” said Sir Paul.

However, one painting that is not expected to make the proposed show is a stylised study of The Queen as a child on a horse which was presented to her by German President Joachim Gauck.

Artist Nicole Leidenfrost had painted Princess Elizabeth rid-

ing a blue pony which was flecked in yellow and green, prompting Her Majesty to observe, “that’s a funny colour for a horse”.

In the painting the pony’s reins are held by The Queen’s father George VI. She asked President Gauck: “Is that supposed to be my father?” Mr Gauck said: “Don’t you recognise him?” and his guest replied “no”.

Prince Regent at cross purposes

BY GEOFF BAKER
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WE are indebted to everyone’s favourite royal history pixie, Dr Lucy Worsley, for revealing that one of our monarchs may have been something of a cross-dresser.

Winsome Worsley uncovered the little secret whilst researching one of her excellent histories for BBC Four, a documentary on the importance of power dressing among the royals over the centuries.

Because of his father’s mental illness, George IV served as Prince Regent from 1811 until his own accession in 1820 and it appears that during his time as understudy he may have inherited some of his dad’s eccentricity, especially when it came to dressing up.



■ REVEALING: Lucy Worsley says George IV may have been a cross-dresser

“He was a very stylish man,” said Dr Worsley, “as his wife said of him, ‘it was just a shame that he had to be king, as he would have made a much better hairdresser’.”

It seems that George also had some way to go as a master of the housekeeping, for not only did he spend the equivalent of £19,700,000 on his coronation – 20 times what it cost to crown his father – but he spent £2,180,000 of that on the coronation robes which he only wore for a few hours.

He also did not exactly improve his popularity by insisting that his entire court wear

historic fancy dress for the occasion.

Some of these outfits – along with George IV’s wardrobe – are on exhibition at the Museum of London, where fashion historians estimate that the average cost of a fancy dress coronation costume pressed on the hapless courtiers would have been around £22,000.

When George IV died much of his wardrobe was auctioned off and the Museum of London has the sale catalogue; listing such lots as his 28 white waistcoats, 43 pairs of spurs and, eagle-eyed museum staff pointed out to Dr Worsley, “two nun’s dresses and a red petticoat”.

As you do. But whilst George IV’s dressing up box may provide the means for a bit of a giggle, his example may also go to explain-

ing why so many of the current royal family like to frequently re-wear in public their own stylish outfits, thus avoiding the profligacy-fed unpopularity of their ancestor.

“The people thought his obsession with clothes was undignified for a king. When he died he wasn’t much-mourned because of it,” said Dr Worsley.

“After his death, one pamphleteer wrote ‘he cared more about the tie of a neckcloth than he did about Parliamentary reform’ and his obituary in *The Times* said ‘never was an individual regretted more by his people than this deceased king.’”

By contrast, our popular Duke of Edinburgh, who is frequently lauded for his impeccable dress sense, is reported to still be wearing – and fitting into – suits that he first had 50 years ago.

Where to see a royal

FULL details of events in the ever-busy diaries of the many members of the Royal Family are available from the official website www.royal.gov.uk but here’s the schedule for the week ahead for Where To See A Royal

February 23

■ **The Queen** will visit Crossrail Bond Street, 75 Davies Street W1.

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Patron, The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, will attend Receptions for young people who have achieved the Gold Standard in the Award, at St. James’s Palace.

■ **The Earl of Wessex**, as Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, will visit Terminal 5, London Heathrow Airport, Wayfarer Road, Hounslow to celebrate the Diamond Anniversary.

■ **The Countess of Wessex**, as Chairman, The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, Women’s Network Forum, will chair a meeting at Shell Headquarters, Shell Centre SE1.

■ **The Princess Royal**, as Patron, Livability, will attend the Annual Awards Ceremony, Floor 6, 6 Mitre Passage, Peninsula Central SE10.

■ **The Princess Royal**, as Chancellor, University of Edinburgh, will hold a Dinner at Buckingham Palace.

Princess Alexandra, as Patron, St Christopher’s Hospice, will attend a Reception at the Royal Academy, Burlington House, Piccadilly.

February 24

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Patron, the Kurt Hahn Trust, will attend a Dinner to mark the 30th anniversary of the Trust, at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, 34 Belgrave Square.

■ **The Prince of Wales** and the Duchess of Cornwall will attend a reception in Lambeth Palace Road SE1.

■ **The Princess Royal**, as President, RedR UK, will attend a Fundraising Reception at the Institution of Engineering and Technology, 2 Savoy Place WC2.

■ **The Princess Royal**, as Patron, The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (UK), will attend the London Region 12th Annual Student Conference, Queen Court, University of Greenwich, Old Royal Naval College.

■ **The Princess Royal**, as President, Animal Health Trust, will hold the Fellowship Reception at St James’s Palace.

■ **The Princess Royal**, as Patron, The Pony Club, will visit Pony Club Emergency Action Drills, Wormwood Scrubs Pony Centre, Wormwood Scrubs Park.

February 26

■ **The Duke of Edinburgh**, as Colonel, Grenadier Guards, will attend a Service and Reception to mark the 25th anniversary of the Regiment’s involvement in Operation Granby, at the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks SW1E.

■ **The Duke of Gloucester**, as Honorary President, the 20-Ghost Club, will attend the Annual General Meeting and Dinner at Armourers’ Hall, Coleman Street EC2.

■ **The Duke of Kent**, as President, will attend the Friday Evening Discourse at The Royal Institution of Great Britain, Albemarle Street, Mayfair.

■ **The Duke of Kent**, as Field Marshal, will attend a Service to Commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Operation Granby at St Paul’s Cathedral.

February 29

■ **The Earl of Wessex**, as Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award Foundation, will attend a meeting at Award House, Saint Matthew Street.

Capital nights

EDITED BY GEOFF BAKER

TWENTY years after Sara Cox was one of the first to break Emma Bunton and the other Spice Girls on TV, the pair are hooking up again to present a new, five-nights-a-week show for the BBC.

But Spice Girls fans aren't too happy about it. Sara and Emma will front the team presenting BBC2's latest coals-to-Newcastle show, *Too Much TV*, which will air live at supertime from Monday to Friday, starting next week.

Without a shred of irony, the BBC has excitedly announced, "with more TV available to us than anyone can keep up with, this new series will inform viewers about what's on, be a place to glean insight and hear opinions, catch the watercooler moments you may have missed, and indulge in a good old gossip about the biggest shows on TV that week. It will also delve into the archive so viewers have the chance to enjoy again some of TV's greatest moments."

How many TV presenters does it take to host a TV show about TV? Six – Sara, Emma, Rufus Hound, Aled Jones and comedians Funmbi Omotayo and Susan Calman.

"Each weekday, our presenters, all self-confessed TV lovers, will pair up to present the latest TV news, welcome celebrity guests into the studio, showcase first-to-air clips and go behind the scenes to lift the lid on a little TV magic," says the BBC breathlessly.

This makes the show sound somewhat different from the one which marked Sara Cox's TV debut, Channel 4's *The Girlie Show*, on which the young woman who helped to create the laddette culture presented a slot aimed at ridiculing "old poseurs" or, as she then also described them, "criminally self-obsessed celebrities".

The BBC's press office is keen to stress how "super-excited" the team is to be presenting the new show which, given its slot, should effectively cannibalise the audience for its own regional news on BBC1.

"With the premise of the show being that there's *Too Much TV*, it may be hard to see how making more of it is going to help. And yet, I'm assured by the BBC's very top scientists that it definitely will. I guess we'll just have to wait and see if they're right or not," says Rufus

Tea and Bunton or Spice Girls reunion?

■ **GIRL POWER:** But has the BBC's new supertime show scuppered Spice Girls reunion hopes?

Hound in the press release.

"I'm always being told I watch too much TV so this is the perfect series for me to present with my three old mates Emma, Sara and Rufus! I'm sure even I'll discover some hidden gems I've never watched!" exclaims Aled Jones.

"I'm super excited about *Too Much TV*. If I wasn't hosting this show I would 100 per cent be tuning in every day. It's right up my street as I'm obsessed with all things telly!" trilled Emma Bunton.

Sara Cox, who launched The Spice Girls on *The Girlie Show* back in 1996, added: "I'm really excited to be working with two of the hottest blondes in showbiz – Rufus & Aled. Plus I get to job-share with an actual Spice Girl! TMTV is going to have a

poke around in last night's telly for any treats you may have missed and will give you heads up on what to watch on your telly box every night. It's also very exciting that I'll be able to commandeer the remote control at home, gawp at loads of TV, and claim it's for work."

However, while the hosts are so excited that they may be needing towels, Spice Girls fans are not jumping for joy. They figure that with Emma now busily occupied in the BBC's self-promotion department, *Too Much TV* means the collapse of hopes for much-anticipated Spice Girls gigs to celebrate the band's 20th anniversary. Online forums for Spice Girls fans are peppered with laments that Emma has chosen teatime TV over packing out Wembley Stadium for Girl Power gigs.

"Bye bye reunion tour," posted one fan when the news of *Too Much TV* was broken on a fansite. "I wish the girls would stop taking part in TV shows and felt like recording and releasing music instead," complained another.

Another moaned: "You'd think if they had a genuine passion for making music and performing, which I think they all had at one time, they would miss it and want to keep doing it even if success wasn't guaranteed or likely."

To which comment another fan replied: "Sadly, time has proven that the only girl who has always been completely passionate about music is Melanie C."

Which is surely not quite the reaction that the BBC had been hoping for.

THE funny business on Radio 4 is set to improve with its new comedy boss aiming to prick up our ears with new shows from favourites David Jason, Sandi Toksvig, Alexei Sayle and a series about the sexual revolution of the century.

Sioned William, Radio 4's Commissioning Editor for Comedy, is bringing back Sandi, the much-missed former presenter of *The News Quiz*, by putting her on the buses. She will return to Radio 4 with a series that sees her taking bus rides with comedy pals in *Sandi's Ticket To Ride*.

Del Boy David Jason will star in a new David Renwick radio comedy show, *Desolation Jests*, featuring "quirky sketches in a variety of styles framed in a dark, surreal and joke-filled faux interview format".

"I am delighted to be able to say that we will be giving the Radio 4 audience some comic gems from the pen of the great David Renwick, who fortunately has not got *One Foot in the Grave*. There is more to Renwick than Victor Meldrew and we'll be there to prove it," says the nation's favourite comedy actor.

In Alexei Sayle's *Imaginary Sandwich Bar* one of London's comedy legends will be back with a new stand-up and storytelling show, of which he says:



■ **FAVOURITE:** David Jason

"For years I have been telling people falsely that I run a sandwich bar. Now I have the thrilling opportunity to make my sandwich bar real – except it will still be imaginary. Alexei Sayle's *Imaginary Sandwich Bar* will be the kind of show that the abbreviation WTF was invented for."

Radio newcomer Mae Martin will explore what the BBC describes as "the millennial generation's sexual revolution, which is transforming how society perceives sex and gender" in *Mae Martin's Guide To 21st Century Sexuality*.

Among the commissions, there are new series also for the award-winning John Finnemore's *Double Acts*, the excellent Susan Calman's *Sisters* and John Shuttleworth's *Lounge Music*. Also returning are Radio 4 stalwarts *Count Arthur Strong*, the not-quite-funny-enough *Gloomsbury*, the brilliance of *Meet David Sedaris*, every journalist's life story *Ed Reardon's Week* and more from intelligent comedy champion John Lloyd and his *Museum Of Curiosity*.

Candidates pick soundtracks of their lies (sorry, *lives*)

WILL Special Agent Gibbs win the White House for Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton?

NCIS, the world's favourite TV drama, which stars Mark Harmon as the laconic navy investigator, is set to take a key role in the presidential election as Republican and Democrats fight over the rights to its theme tune.

Ever since Ronald Reagan entirely-inappropriately used Bruce

Springsteen's *Born In The USA* as the soundtrack on his campaign trail – not understanding that, rather than being a song of patriotism, it was the Boss's diatribe against the shocking way that the USA treated Vietnam veterans – politicians on both sides in the States have been pinched popular songs in order to bolster their appeal with the voters.

Democrat contender Bernie Sanders has been attempting to rally support by using Simon &

Garfunkel's *America* at his rallies, Trump has been marching behind Twisted Sister's *We're Not Going To Take It* and Elton John's *Rocket Man*, and the coverstar of *Rug Monthly* has also been infuriating Adele, Neil Young, Aerosmith and REM by using their songs at his vote fests without their permission.

But now looms a new election fight over the theme tune to the massively-popular *NCIS*, as researchers have

discovered that among Republicans' favourite shows and Democrats' most-loved programmes, *NCIS* is the only show that features in both parties' lists of Top 20 TV shows.

But they had better act sharpish about it as the appeal of *NCIS* to its zillions of fans is set to take a dent. Following the much-mourned departure of sultry Cote De Pablo, who gave up playing Mossad agent Ziva David a while back, now the

show's resident beefcake Michael Weatherly is quitting as pin-up Anthony DiNozzo.

Oddly enough, none of the Presidential candidates appear keen on possibly more appropriate soundtracks for their rallies, such as *Lying Eyes* by The Eagles, The Bee Gees' *Jive Talking*, *I'm Looking Through You* by The Beatles or The Platters' entirely appropriate *The Great Pretender*.



FOLLOWING the huge success of *Shakespeare In Love*, now the big anniversary year for The Bard is to be marked by Shakespeare In Lust, and if you see yourself as a “hot Elizabethan” you could be in the racy new TV production.

Shekhar Kapur, the director of the Oscar-winning *Elizabeth*, which starred Cate Blanchett as the Virgin Queen, has teamed up with writer Craig Pearce, who wrote the screenplays for *Moulin Rouge* and *The Great Gatsby*, for *Will*, a TV series which has more than a bit of King Lear about it.

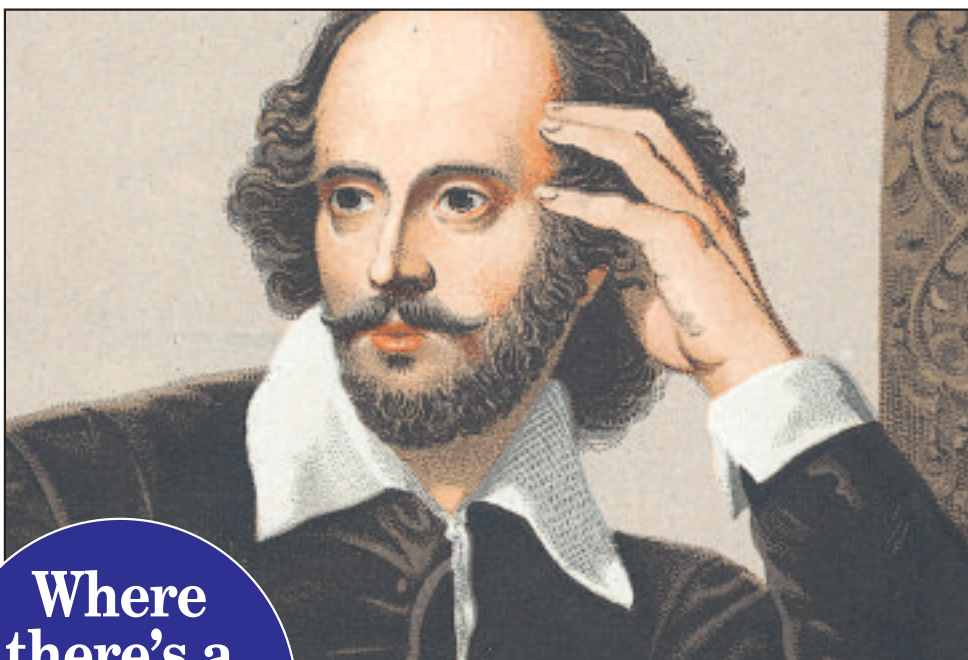
It’s 400 years this year since the death of Shakespeare and in that time you’d have thought that every aspect of his life has been dramatised.

But think again, because *Will* is to provide a completely different take – as the producers describe it, “it’s the wild story of young William Shakespeare’s arrival onto the punk rock theatre scene that was 16th century London – the seductive, violent world where his raw talent faced rioting audiences, religious fanatics and raucous side-shows.

“It’s the hot, contemporary, dangerous version of Shakespeare’s life, played to a modern soundtrack, exposing all his recklessness, lustful temptations and brilliance”.

Oo-err, that’s all a far cry from Johnnie Gielgud.

But it’s good news for west London newcomer Laurie Davidson



Where there’s a Will there’s a wh-aay!

■ **BAWDY BARD:** A new TV series will tell the story of a wild and youthful William Shakespeare. Below left: actor Laurie Davidson

although still studying in his final year at the London Academy for Music and Dramatic Art in Barons Court, has landed the lead role as the rollicking and bed-hopping Shakespeare.

Clearly, with the glittering production of *Will* to his name, the series which is set for prime-time screening in the USA and UK will make him the new Benedict Cumberbatch and the former Old Alleynian pupil of Dulwich College is already preparing for the part by learning to write with a quill.

Meanwhile, TV wannabes can join the young six-footer in the cast of the risqué production as TV chiefs are now looking for both extras and “featured parts” for crowd and theatre scenes for when filming starts in March in Bath and London.

“We are looking for vibrant and talented individuals, sexy, hot and enthusiastic Elizabethans, rock and medieval musicians, fashion models, lively and raucous mosh pit people, tightrope walkers, bellydancers,

blacksmiths and snake-loving new talent,” say the producers.

Snake-loving talent should apply to castings@maddogcastings.com enclosing a CV and a recent photograph of themselves with an anaconda.

Over to 2

■ **WITH** the shutdown of the BBC3 TV service last week, ITV are ramping up the coverage for young people in the hope of gaining an even bigger market share of the audience.

The BBC channel changed to a solely online service last week, but ITV, whose station ITV2 is the biggest and most popular with young people, is hoping they can capitalise.

Later this month the station will broadcast the premiere of season 15 of *Family Guy* along with other creations by Seth MacFarlane including *American Dad* and *The Cleveland Show*. ITV have also won the rights to screen the UK premiere of the MacFarlane’s new animated comedy *Bordertown*.

A BIG hand for Eddie Izzard, the favourite to be Mayor of London in 2020, who will be teaching us all a lesson in courage, athleticism and charity by not only attempting to complete an impressive 27 marathons in 27 days across South Africa for Sport Relief 2016, but also for pledging that if the 30C heat flattens him he will try it again and again and again.

Eddie, the comedy genius who amazed the nation in 2009 when, with only five weeks training he completed 43 marathons across the UK in 51 days and raised £1.8 million, is now to run for more than 700 miles, starting today [February 23] and completing his great trek on March 20.

Eddie has chosen 27 marathons to mark the 27 years that Nelson Mandela spent in prison.

“Throughout his journey he will explore the history of South Africa and Nelson Mandela as well as visiting communities, organisations and families that have all been helped by the work of Comic Relief,” says the BBC, who will be following Eddie with a film crew.



■ **ROUTE CAUSE:** Eddie Izzard

“Eddie’s route will trace the story of Nelson Mandela’s life, starting in his birthplace, before journeying to the school and university that he attended, then on to Cape Town and Robben Island where he was imprisoned.

“If Eddie completes all 27 marathons, he will end at the Union Buildings in Pretoria where Nelson Mandela gave his inaugural speech as the first democratically elected President of South Africa in 1994.”

The challenge will be an important one for Eddie as he previously attempted a similar feat in South Africa in 2012, but had to pull out for health reasons. What is even more deserving of making the man Sir Eddie Izzard at least is that he says, “If I fail, I will come back again and again and again until I do succeed. Because that’s what Nelson Mandela would have done.”

He added: “I was inspired to run 27 marathons in 27 days after seeing the film *Invictus*. The film featured a poem called *Invictus* – one of Nelson Mandela’s favourite poems during his 27 years in prison. He used it to give himself determination to keep himself going and keep his spirit alive.

“It’s a beautiful poem about being the master of your own fate and destiny. Watching the film I suddenly realised – I have to run in South Africa. I should run 27 marathons in 27 days as a salute to the great man.

“It is also a salute to all who struggled and fought against Apartheid. So I am delighted to be doing this for Sport Relief. But 27 marathons is nothing compared to what Nelson Mandela did by serving 27 years in prison. He was a great soul and leaves a fantastic legacy for the world.”

Top man.



who,

Pitch your festival tent at Glastonbury-on-Thames

WE may be living in a golden age for the great British music festival, but it seems the spiralling cost of tickets and the overwhelming range of choice is making music fans harder and harder to please, writes Jack Dixon.

Within hours of the announcement that Super Bowl conquerors Coldplay had landed a headline slot at Glastonbury for the fourth time in 11 years, hundreds were signing up to an online petition to kick the band off the bill.

Tough crowd, perhaps. But with the cost of camping at the UK’s premier

festivals about to break through the £200 mark, more and more niche events are popping up around the country to satisfy the demand.

From the peace and tranquillity of Latitude, in Suffolk, to the red-blooded rock of Reading and Leeds, it seems we can’t get enough of the live music circus once the summer sun has shone.

And while Londoners will once again make the annual end-of-June pilgrimage all the way to Worthy Farm in Somerset – whether to applaud or pillory Chris Martin and co – many will be staying in the capital for their festival kicks.

For those hungry to connect with the countryside from the comfort of the city, look no further than Caught By The River Thames – a brand new two-day event coming to west London in August.

Boasting an impressive line-up topped by indie rock royalty Low and the Super Furry Animals, the festival is set to offer a unique twist on the summer party scene.

It’s taking place within the glorious surrounds of Fulham Palace and will also feature talks with heavyweights from the literary world, performances from the Faber Poetry Chapel, while

celebrating local brewers with its own ‘Ten Mile’ beer festival. Animal rights campaigner and veteran broadcaster Chris Packham even makes a guest appearance.

Organisers say the gathering of authors and artists, thinkers and drinkers will be part-gig, part nature symposium, “bridging the previously un-spanned gap between psychedelic high-summer rock’n’roll concert and Springwatch”. Not to be missed.

Caught By The River Thames takes place at Fulham Palace on August 6 and 7. Tickets are available at www.caughtbytheriverthames.com

LWN

News for Westminster, Chelsea, Hammersmith, Shepherd's Bush and Fulham

This monthly column is produced by Peter Faulkner of Who Can You Trust organisation and sponsored by **Checkatrade.com**. Peter can be contacted on 07958-475392 or email peterfau67@gmail.com

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Where reputation matters

Gurkhas fraud alert

By Peter Faulkner

GURKHAS living in West London have been put on a police wanted list...to stop them putting more of their savings into a fraudulent investment scheme.

City of London Police believe there are many Gurkha families scattered around Hammersmith, Fulham, Earls Court and the surrounding districts.

They think many of them may be victims of a suspected £50 million fraudulent Ponzi scheme and are urging them to come forward.

Since October 2014, City of London Police have been investigating Capital World Market, based in Bishopsgate, which was offering five per cent interest per month to investors.

Detectives have heard from some potential victims of how they have invested sums from the thousands to the millions - seeing little or no return - but it is thought the majority of alleged victims were from the Gurkha and Nepalese community, and have yet to come forward.

Ponzi schemes are fraudulent investment operations which pay returns to its investors from new capital paid to the operators by new investors, rather than from profit earned by the operator.

Detective Chief Inspector Dave Manley said evidence suggests that hundreds of members of the Gurkha and Nepalese community may have been targeted.

He said: "Out of the 450 Gurkha and Nepalese alleged victims that we believe may have invested, less than one per cent from that community have come forward so far. "The others are a large piece of the jigsaw that is missing - the harm caused to individuals, their families, their pension pots and life savings - at the moment is not being represented within the case.

"The story of how this has impacted and affected people needs to be told in the judicial process. It would be a shame for us to get to the next



Gurkhas marching in The Mall to celebrate their 200th anniversary

stage and the level of harm that's been caused to the community is not measured or part of the case."

Action Fraud states on its website that Ponzi schemes are "get rich quick investment scams," and that there is no actual investment as "the fraudsters siphon off the money for themselves".

In an intelligence-led investigation, detectives swooped on the alleged scam before the cash ran out, but Mr Manley said payments to investors would have dried up that month.

Gary Ghale from the Gurkha Welfare Trust said it is the first time he has heard of this type of scheme involving so many people from the Gurkha and Nepalese communities, and that he can think of three reasons potential victims may be reluctant to come forward.

"Firstly, they might not have heard of the investigation," he said. "Secondly, it is because they are worried they might be implicated in this investigation.

"And thirdly because of the

embarrassing situation they are in.

"We would recommend those who believe they have fallen victim to contact the police."

DCI Manley said those that invested may have encouraged friends and family to do the same, believing they were simply introducing them to a good opportunity.

He said of the £50 million invested only £1m of that has been recovered - equating to 2p in every pound for the wider pool of between 600-800 victims.

"There is still money missing, but I have some doubts as to whether any more will be found. The only justice people are going to get is if their story is told," he added.

The appeal comes nine months after the City of London Police arrested 10 men and three women, all of whom work at the City-based foreign exchange trading company, on suspicion of fraud by false representation and money laundering.

Detectives, supported by the Financial Conduct Authority, also seized a host of computers and doc-



A Gurkha statue outside the Ministry of Defence

umentary evidence.

The 13 suspects were questioned and released on bail until March. Those who think they may have been a victim should contact the City of London Police on 7601 6830 or email opvanburgh@cityoflondon.pnn.police.uk

Rogue landlords hit in the pockets

■DODGY landlords have been hit in the pocket by Hammersmith & Fulham Council to the tune of more than £60,000.

Sunil Patel, 44, was prosecuted at Hammersmith Magistrates Court for failing to carry out several checks and repairs at his flat in Australia Road, White City.

He was given an 18-month conditional discharge and ordered to pay more than £8,600 costs..

The court heard that Patel's tenants were forced to live in a 'house of horrors' with mould on the walls, broken smoke alarms, faulty electrics, a missing letterbox letting in draughts, faulty central heating, broken laminate flooring and a missing carpet.

Hammersmith's get tough policy also led to a £20,000 fine plus nearly £5,000 costs for a landlord who was prosecuted for operating a house in multiple occupation in Harrow Road, North Acton, without a licence, not carrying out gas or electrical safety checks and not providing a decent fire escape or treating damp and mould.

And there was a £28,000 fine plus more than £2,000 costs for a landlord who failed to get a HMO licence for his home in Talgarth Road, Hammersmith, and rented it out despite having a broken boiler and a toilet that leaked waste.

Bogus ID cards

■THE National Fraud Intelligence Bureau is warning that people are being contacted electronically by fraudsters claiming to be from the Home Office offering National ID Card for Commonwealth Citizenship.

The British Commonwealth National cards sell for anything between £150 - £300.

The Home Office have said that no such scheme exists and the card "does not prevent an illegal migrant from being removed from the UK".

If you receive an unexpected email, telephone call or letter from someone who claims to be from the Home Office, it may be a scam.

Email virus alert

■FRAUDSTERS are sending out virus infected emails that claim a package has been seized by HM Revenue & Customs upon arrival into the UK.

The official looking scam emails claiming to be from Royal Mail, contain a link to document which will install malicious software on your computer designed to steal your personal information.

If you receive one of these emails, do not click on any links or download any attachments and report it to Royal Mail.

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Fun for all the family!

Talk of the town

On the offensive

Hand to God ****

MASTERFULLY mucky and monstrous, the transfer of the Tony-nominated play *Hand to God* opened last week at the Vaudeville Theatre and immediately divided audiences and critics alike with its shocking puppetry and non PC storyline, writes *Nicky Sweetland*.

If you're easily offended, this production is not for you, but if you're of a harder constitution, *Hand to God* offers an hilarious night at the theatre with grinning gore and grittily inappropriate groping.

Leading the cast, West End stalwart Janie Dee plays a grieving widow, desperately coming to terms with life as a single parent and the confusion of attempting to be a role model when in reality all she wants to do is to let

her hair down and rebel against the world. As part of her foray into redemption she starts up a church puppet workshop in which her son Jason (Harry Mellor) finds his puppet taking on a personality of its own in a very anarchic and devilishly difficult twist of events.

Dee plays the troubled former twin-set wearer with real style and in the most distasteful scenes makes you want to laugh in the same awkward way as when you're at a funeral.

Mellor is truly awe-inspiring as the geeky Jason who can't help but let his trauma-induced split personality take over his life. The 'mating Muppets' scene is absurdly absorbing, with both Mellor and his love interest, played by the perfectly winsome Jemima Rooper, maintaining an impressive deadpan throughout.

Neil Pearson is decorous as the easily mocked parishioner, with Kevin Mains portraying a lovably hateful teen with so many issues he wouldn't be out of place on the *Jeremy Kyle Show*.

If you're a fan of *The Book of Mormon* this will be right up your 'Avenue Q'. Those after a sedate evening of jazz hands may like to consider something else.



■ **PREPARE TO BE SHOCKED:** Left to right, Jemima Rooper (Jessica), Neil Pearson (Greg), Harry Mellor (Jason), Tyrone, Janie Dee (Margery) and Kevin Mains (Timothy). Inset left: Harry Mellor (Jason) and Tyrone



Reggae for romantics: a Kensington treat

I SPENT a very special Valentine's night at Nell's Jazz and Blues Club in Kensington, writes *Nicky Sweetland*.

The fabulous little venue was playing host to the celebrated saxophonist Yolanda Brown as part of her Reggae Love Songs tour and was filled with couples enjoying the romantic candlelight and the cool, relaxing atmosphere. The London-born

saxophonist thrilled the lively audience in Kensington last week with the very best brassy blues tones backed by her wonderful five-piece band.

Totally at home with the audience, the award-winning musician played some classic tracks, including a searing *No Woman No Cry* with a gorgeous little bit of *Amazing Grace* mixed in for good measure. Brown is well known for her

warm sound and lush arrangements so this made for the perfect back drop to a romantic evening.

Her Reggae Love Songs tour continues with further dates throughout the UK until November. She will also be joined by some special guests along the way, including soul superstars Mica Paris and Omar. For more details visit the website yolandabrown.co.uk

Playhouse's caustic cult classic

WE'RE in for a toxic treat at Southwark Playhouse in April when the monster rock 'n' roll musical comedy *The Toxic Avenger* makes its European premiere.

From the Tony Award-winning creative team behind *Memphis*, Joe DiPietro and David Bryan, *The Toxic Avenger* is based on Lloyd Kauffman's 1984 cult classic film from Troma Entertainment. It debuted off-Broadway on April 6, 2009, and won the Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding New Off-Broadway Musical.

The musical follows the citizens of Tromaville, who are crying out for a hero. Enter Melvin Ferd the Third, an aspiring earth scientist determined to clean up the toxic waste problem. But when a corrupt mayor and her government goons try to stop this heroic feat, Melvin is tossed into a vat of toxic waste and

transformed into *The Toxic Avenger*, New Jersey's first superhero!

'Toxie' is a seven-foot mutant freak with superhuman strength and a super-sized heart to match. He's out to save New Jersey, end global warming, woo the prettiest (blindest) librarian in town and get home in time for dinner, in this toxic love story with an environmental twist. Prepare to laugh, scream and sing as 'Toxie' rocks the house and saves the day.

Writer DiPietro says: "*The Toxic Avenger* is a modern, musical superhero and the world leader in the fight against pollution, corruption and evil politicians. So how brilliant that he's finally going where he's needed most: London."

Casting and further creative details are yet to be announced but to keep up to date with all of the news you may like to visit southwarkplayhouse.co.uk



■ **GRIPPING:** Toxie and chum



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AARDVARK
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Talk of the town

BY NICKY SWEETLAND

SINCE leaving the *X factor* at the semi final round in 2008, singer-songwriter Diana Vickers has gone on to prove her versatility both in the recording studio and on stage, writes Nicky Sweetland.

The 24-year-old songstress has also gained an enviable reputation as an actress following her leading role in the West End revival of *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice* at the Vaudeville Theatre.

Vickers has since scored more stage success, including in the memorable *Hatched and Dispatched* at the Park Theatre late last year, which was garnered with praise from critics and further increased her reputation as a serious performer.

The young star's latest foray takes her back to her musical roots as she joins the tour of *The Rocky Horror Show* playing the super prim Janet and with the musical already thrilling audiences across the country, the New Wimbledon Theatre is bracing itself for the show's famous fishnet-clad fans. Diana told me about her love of the musical and for the innocent character she's portraying.

"It's a bonkers show. It's about Brad and Janet, two virginal characters, young and innocent.

"They've lived their lives like their parents have done and their grandparents have done. They're very straight-laced and want the kind of postcard, picturebook lifestyle and then they stumble across Frank 'n' Furter's castle and get lured into his world. My character goes from this wide-eyed sort of puppy dog into releasing her inner vixen. She's great fun to play."

The Rocky Horror Show was written by Richard O'Brian, who was inspired by classic Hollywood B movies and the Frankenstein story. It's an erotic



■ SHOCKING PINK: Diana Vickers and Liam Tamne in *The Rocky Horror Show* at Theatre Royal, Brighton

Fans will 'go bonkers' for this ultimate horror show

mixture of rock music and science fiction which gained the show a cult status. It's popularity only increased when it was made into a film version in 1975 starring Tim Curry as the "sweet transvestite".

Part of the appeal of *The Rocky Horror Show* is its inclusiveness, which sees most of the devoted audience members dressing up in outrageous cos-

tumes to join the party. Diana enthuses about the fans.

"The audience are such a big part of the show they know the script like its a scripture. They know every shout out. They absolutely love it. They're such loyal fans and they just go mad."

The Rocky Horror Show has some huge, iconic numbers – *Time Warp*, *Damn-it, Janet*, *Creature of the Night*, *Sweet Transvestite* to name a few – that can easily swallow up a petite-framed vocalist like Diana.

But she's not afraid to get stuck in and is convinced her experiences performing on the *X Factor* every Saturday night mean she and is more than capable of singing live as Janet.

The actress, who has also designed her own vintage clothing range, Dee V, said: "Being on a theatre stage is a different energy but I took the platform the *X Factor* gave me and went with it."

The Rocky Horror show runs at the New Wimbledon Theatre from February 29 to March 5. For more details visit the website atgtickets.com

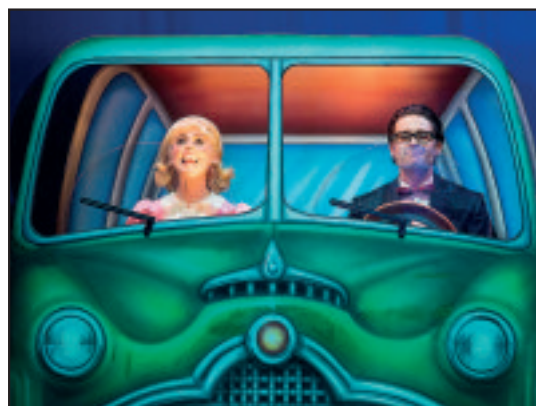
Nina Conti at the Criterion

AFTER a total sell-out national tour, sold out Edinburgh Festival Fringe run and two sold out winter dates in the West End, Nina Conti is to perform her smash-hit show *In Your Face* at the Criterion Theatre from February 25 until March 12.

In addition to seeing her exceptionally entertaining take on ventriloquism, audiences will also experience the rare treat of an entirely unique, one-off performance – because *In Your Face* is almost entirely improvised.

Nina really needs no introduction, having won a British Comedy Award, stormed *Live at the Apollo*, Russell Howard's *Good News and Sunday Night at the Palladium* – and made a BAFTA nominated film – all without even moving her lips.

Tickets are on sale from £15. Details: criterion-theatre.co.uk



■ ON THE ROAD: Brad and Janet en route to an adventure – and not all of it fun – in *The Rocky Horror Show* Picture: David Freeman

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Talk of the town

Hoff to the disco

Last Night A DJ Saved My Life

AFTER speaking to David Hasselhoff about his new musical just a couple of weeks ago, I wasn't under the illusion that I would be watching a high-brow theatrical production, writes *Nicky Sweetland*.

The Hoff, as he's affectionately known, had described *Last Night A DJ Saved My Life* as a kind of adult pantomime and that's pretty much what the show is, although it feels possibly more like holiday camp entertainment.

That's not to say it's all bad, it's just a very unusual production which has squashed as much cheese into the two-hour show as is humanly possible.

Complete with a warm-up man who leads the jeering and hollering and who is backed by some tub-thumping tunes, this musical moulds 80s and 90s nostalgia with a sense of charm and every now and then a slight air of embarrassment.

The music is really the star of the show, with classic party anthems pumping through the auditorium throughout and the energetic choreography performed with style and verve by the young and vibrant ensemble.

Shane Richie Junior is impressive as club 18-30 holiday rep Rik, whose cheeky chappy charms allow the flimsy story to bounce along with the music. With a great voice and some lovely comedy moments, Richie makes the most of his inherited department.

Rik's love interest, played by BBC1's *The Voice* star Stephanie Webber, also shows her vocal prowess and the scenes when the pair are on stage together are by far the most enthralling.

The Hoff himself lacks any real stature these days and at times it seems more like you're watching a marionette.

On more than one occasion, a collective cringe spreads throughout the audience and there's that unease when you're not sure if you're supposed to laugh or not.

The supporting cast do a good job however, with Will Markus, Natalie Amanda Gray and Webber all putting in stellar performances.

This is a great little show if you want a few drinks and a laugh with a group of friends on a Friday night – and for those who enjoyed their formative years in the early nineties, I'd say it would be perfect as a birthday or hen party trip.



■ **CHEESE MAKERS:** David Hasselhoff leads the pantomime-style romp that is *Last Night A DJ Saved My Life*

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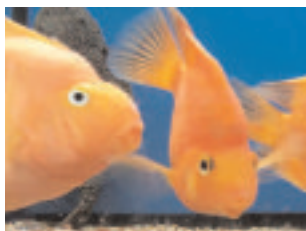
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Phantom of the Opera *****

WITH the news that the original *Phantom of the Opera*, Michael Crawford, is set to make a return to the West End stage later this year, I decided to treat myself to a visit to Her Majesty's Theatre to see a brand new one, writes *Nicky Sweetland*.

Ben Forster took over the coveted leading role in Andrew Lloyd Webber's classic stage show just last week and put his mark on the mask immediately with a performance worthy of his recent acclaim.

About to celebrate its 30th year in the West End, *The Phantom of the Opera* is still just as enthralling as when it first opened. The score from the very first note sends a shiver of excitement reverberating around the auditorium, and with breathtaking stage effects, this middle aged masterpiece is still one of my picks of the London theatre scene.

Forster follows in the footsteps of a plethora of musical theatre royalty who have played the role. Since winning ITV's *Search for a*

Superstar in 2012, he has enjoyed a hugely successful and varied career, most recently by playing Buddy the Elf in the Christmas spectacular at the Dominion Theatre.

He has proved his almost unparalleled versatility on many previous occasions and brings a supreme grace to the role, which requires an imposing stature and an impeccable vocal performance. His *Music of the Night* is sumptuous and elegant while his take on the show's main theme leaves you with a chill.

Brute force to be reckoned with

AFTER a successful run at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2015, Izzy Tennyson's *Brute* now comes to Soho Theatre.

Brute (winner of the 2015 IdeasTap Underbelly Award) is an exciting piece of new writing based on the true story of a rather twisted, horrible school-girl. Tennyson's truthful writing is fearless, laced with a deliciously scabrous humour.

Being 14 is an awful age. You're not a very nice person at 14. No one knows this better than new girl Poppy, who has just started at an all-girls state school.

There are rules with no logic, sadistic jokes that aren't actually funny and the most sinister games played out of boredom.

Set in a girls' school in a provincial English town far away from cosmopolitan and cultural influences, *Brute* explores memories of the protagonist's intensely passionate

female friendships as they escalate into violence.

Written as a dynamic monologue, the piece is based on girls from Tennyson's peer group.

The themes in *Brute* explore the economic climate, bullying and female violence along with the complexity of adolescent female friendships.

Brute also touches on the sensitive topics of adolescent hysteria and girls' relationships with authority, especially how female 'problem cases' are handled at school.

Brute is part of the Soho Rising season this spring. Tennyson, part of Soho Theatre's Soho Young Company, developed *Brute* during the Writers' Lab Course. Soho education producer Jules Haworth has worked as Dramaturg on *Brute* from its inception.

Brute runs from March 15 to 19. For more details visit the website sohotheatre.com



■ **BRUTE:** Izzy Tennyson

WINE & DINE

The food and
drink page for
West London

AMELIA FREER has one word of advice for convenience food fans who say they don't have time to cook from scratch.

"If you don't have time for health, you need to eventually make time for disease."

It's a stark warning from the nonsense 40-year-old nutritional therapist, blogger and author, who boasts James Corden, Sam Smith and Boy George among her celebrity clientele, but she's passionate about inspiring positive change.

"We used to [cook from scratch] in the old days, before convenience food existed – it's only convenience food that told us we don't have time any more and we don't have the skill. We've learnt to not make the time or prioritise it, and now we feel incapable."

"We've got our priorities wrong," she enthuses. "Preparing and thinking about food has gone to the bottom of our list."

Freer knows from experience the impact eating badly can have.

In her mid-20s, while working as Prince Charles' personal assistant, she survived on a diet of pre-prepared food and sugary tea, and was plagued by IBS and acne.

"I had really bad digestive problems, really bad skin problems, really low energy, I was always getting ill, I was always run down," she recalls. "It wasn't anything sinister like a disease, but I just wasn't a healthy girl."

"I think a lot of people aren't healthy," she adds. "As humans, we tend to make do and put up with bad health, you get used to it, as opposed to saying, 'No, I deserve to feel excellent, I deserve to have optimum health.'"

Freer eventually quit her job and enrolled on a four-year nutrition course, which changed her life.

"I started to learn about nutritional therapy, which is working with individuals to help improve



■ **HEALTHY ALTERNATIVE:** cook and author Amelia Freer

their health, through the use of food. It's amazing how quickly someone can feel better, above and beyond weight loss – they feel a lot better with various symptoms when they improve the quality of the food they're eating."

Sam Smith summed it up when he posted a picture on Instagram of Freer's bestselling debut book *Eat, Nourish, Glow*, published early last year, with the caption: "Amelia Freer has helped me lose over a stone in two weeks and has completely transformed my relationship with food... It's not even about weight loss, it's about feeling happy in yourself."

She's not a fan of our reliance on sugar – "The amount of access we have to sugar now is



detrimental to our health. It's so important that people become more aware of it" – but neither does she like the word 'diet'.

"I don't endorse or support any diet. If someone comes to me wanting to know about a diet, then I'm afraid they'll be disappointed. Everyone's too quick to turn things into extremeness and fads, and I think that's really disappointing."

So is the 'moderation' approach better?

"I hate that word because it frustrates people, but I think we have to find balance," says Freer. "Everyone's different. What works for some people doesn't work for others."

Fine fantasy food from Fulham

Belinda Donovan is an experienced chef who was trained at the prestigious La Varenne cooking school in France. She compiled the *Hammersmith and Fulham Cook Book* in 2013 and is a regular writer of cookery columns and reviews. An enthusiast for all things Fulham, she has also written articles about the area's rich local history. She is currently a Conservative councillor for the Addison ward and served as Mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham for the year 2012-13



ICAUGHT up with Angus Watson recently. He is our local Fulham novelist, author of the epic fantasy trilogy set in the British Iron Age. The trilogy's titles are *Age of Iron*, published in 2014, *Clash of Iron*, released last March and his fresh off the press latest novel, *Reign of Iron*.

Angus tells me his favourite part of Fulham is its western edge, along the river in Bishop's Park, on a week day.

It's peaceful with enough dog walkers, toddlers, squirrels, para-keets, pensioners on mobility

scooters and joggers to keep it interesting, and looking out from below gigantic trees over the tidal Thames you can get a real sense of the busy history. On weekends it's a bit too busy, with an awful lot of lycra and far too many gilets.

Angus's favourite recipe is Mexican Eggs. It comes from a chef called Jade Barton, AKA The Gourmet Girl – www.thegourmet-girl.co.uk

Serves four – ingredients

- Olive oil, for frying and greasing
- 1 red onion, peeled and diced
- 1 wide green chilli, e.g.

jalapeño, or ordinary green chilli if unavailable, sliced

- Chorizo chopped into pieces
- 2 garlic cloves, peeled and finely sliced
- 1 tsp cumin seeds
- 1 x 400g tin chopped tomatoes
- 1 x 400g tin cooked black beans, drained and rinsed
- 4-6 corn tortillas, halved
- 4 free-range eggs
- 50g Cheddar cheese, finely grated
- 2 pinches of chilli flakes, or to taste
- Small handful of coriander, finely chopped
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method

- 1 – Preheat the oven to 180°C/gas mark 4.
- 2 – Place a frying pan over a medium heat and add a glug of olive oil. Add the onion, chilli and garlic with a pinch of salt and pepper and sauté until tender and dark golden, about 6 minutes. Add the

chorizo, then the cumin and cook until aromatic. Stir in the tomatoes and gently simmer for 5 minutes. Add the beans, heat through for 2 minutes, then set aside.

3 – Grease a baking dish with a little oil and sprinkle some seasoning in the bottom of it. Line the dish with the tortillas, overlapping them and raising them slightly above the edge of the dish. Pour in the tomato mixture, then make 4 little wells in it.

4 – Break an egg into a cup, then pour it into a well so that the yolk sits neatly in the middle. Repeat with the remaining eggs. Sprinkle over the cheese and chilli flakes and season with salt and pepper.

5 – Place the dish on a shelf two-thirds of the way up the oven so that the grill (if on) can colour the cheese. Bake for 8-10 minutes, or until the egg whites are cooked through, the yolks runny and the cheese melted and golden.

6 – Scatter with the coriander before serving.



MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Baked Guernsey Goddess with celery

Serves four

THIS is not so much a recipe as just a delicious way to eat one of my favourite cheeses. Guernsey Goddess is one of Blur man Alex James's range and is made by cheesemaker Pete Humphries at Whitelake Dairy.

It's the closest thing to a Vacherin Mont D'or you will find in Britain and the richness of the Guernsey cows' milk and the finish of Temperley cider brandy wash means it has a touch of genius about it.

It's delicious served at room temperature, or baked as a sharing snack.

Ingredients

- 1-2 Guernsey Goddesses
- 4-6 sticks of celery, peeled if necessary

Method

Pre-heat the oven to 200C/ gas mark 6. Put the Guernsey Goddess into a small, tight-fitting, ovenproof pot, cover with a lid or foil, and bake for 15-20 minutes, or until the cheese is soft and gooey in the middle.

Leave the celery whole or cut it down into large dipping sticks.

Serve the Goddess on a large serving plate with the celery sticks around it and have the second one on standby to quickly replenish.



■ **CREAM OF THE CROP:** Baked Guernsey Goddess with celery, by Mark Hix

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PLACE YOUR PREMISES LICENCE WITH US FOR ONLY £112 plus VAT

Call Candy
020 8768 4919

Deadline is Friday at 3pm

LUCILA OPPE
(otherwise Lucila Gonzalez-Posada Pellico) (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 3 Coleherne Court, The Little Belfry, London SW6 0DL, who died on 07/02/2016, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 03/05/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Edwin Coe LLP, 2 Stone Buildings,
Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3TH.
Ref: KJ/OPP.13.1

LILIAN VALBORG MITCHELL
(Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of Flat 4, 55-56 Cornwall Gardens, London SW7 4BE, who died on 31/12/2004, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 03/05/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

LE Law Solicitors, 127 High Road,
Loughton, Essex IG10 4LT.
Ref: NLEM151.1/1150

Licensing Act 2003
Application for Major
Variation to a Premises
Licence

An application has been made by Rosa's London Ltd for a major variation to a premises licence for premises situate at and known as Rosa's, 25 Gillingham Street, London SW1V 1HN.

To permit supplies of alcohol as off sales, limited to delivery and take away with food.

The full application setting out full details of the application can be viewed at the offices of the licensing authority at City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QP during normal office hours (ring in advance to check). Further information may be available at www.westminster.gov.uk.

Interested parties can make representations to the Licensing Authority by close of business on 15th March 2016. All representations must be made in writing. It is an offence under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 for anyone to recklessly or knowingly make a false statement in connection with a licensing application. The maximum fine on conviction is £5,000.

BERWIN LEIGHTON PAISNER LLP

ALEXANDER WILLIAM MITCHELL
(Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of Flat 4, 55-56 Cornwall Gardens, London SW7 4BE, who died on 04/05/2011, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 03/05/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

LE Law Solicitors, 127 High Road,
Loughton, Essex IG10 4LT.
Ref: NLEM151.1/1150

Licensing Act 2003
Variation of Premises Licence

An application has been made to The Royal Borough of Chelsea and Kensington by Camden Management (UK) Limited to vary the existing Premises Licence for premises known as Cottons (formerly Chakra), 157-159 Notting Hill Gate, London W11 3LF.

The application is to vary the existing layout drawings on the ground and basement levels.

The full application setting out full details of the application can be viewed at the offices of the Licensing Team, Council Offices, Royal Borough of Chelsea and Kensington, 37 Pembroke Road, London W6 6PW during normal office hours - ring in advance to check. Further information may be available at www.rbkc.gov.uk.

Responsible authorities or persons likely to be affected by the grant of this application can make representations to the Licensing Authority by close of business on Friday 18 March 2016. All representations must be made in writing.

It is an offence under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 for anyone to recklessly or knowingly make a false statement in connection with a licensing application. The maximum fine on conviction is £5,000.

BERWIN LEIGHTON PAISNER LLP

JIB/61352.3

To advertise in the
Classified
Section
Tel: 020 8768 4919

LICENSING ACT 2003

Application for a new Premises Licence

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that GLOBAL VIPS LIMITED has applied to the City of Westminster on 27th January 2016 for a new premises licence for Shop 1, Leicester Square Station, Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0AP. The proposed application is to permit the sale by retail of alcohol.

Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing of his/her representation by 24th February 2016 stating the grounds for making said representation to: Licensing Service, 14th Floor, City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1.

The public register where applications are available to be viewed by members of the public can be accessed online by visiting at www.westminster.gov.uk/Licensing and following the link to the public register.

The Licensing Authority must receive representations by the date given above. The Licensing Authority will have regard to any such representation in considering the application. It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5,000.

To advertise in the
Classified
Section

Tel: 020 8768 4919

Local Planning Applications London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

I give notice that applications have been made to the Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham as follows:
FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE CHARACTER OR APPEARANCE OF A CONSERVATION AREA
17 Melrose Gardens
London W6 7RN

2016/00628/TPO
Felling of a Sycamore Tree in rear garden, subject to Tree Preservation Order
TPO/117/2/85 (T20).

The Salutation 154 King Street
London W6 0QU
2016/00418/FUL

External alterations to include replacement of damaged air brick at the front elevation, alterations in the beer garden to include placing of new tables and chairs, replacement of existing plank table tops with solid table tops, installation of new drink shelf, repositioning and installation of a new timber fronted counter to B.B.Q. equipment, new covered roof and new timber screen to each seating area; associated internal and external alterations.

47 Campana Road
London SW6 4AT
2016/00496/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension; installation of two rooflights in the front roofspace; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition; erection of a single storey rear extension, to the side of the existing back addition.

50 Caidness Road
London W14 0JD
2016/00578/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension to replace existing glazed sun room; infilling of roof of existing two storey back addition including installation of a rooflight; alterations to the pitched roof of the single storey ground floor rear extension to the side of the existing back addition to form a flat roof; installation of new doors and window to replace existing to the rear elevation at ground floor level; excavation of the front garden and part of the rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with enlargement of the existing basement.

24 Doneraile Street
London SW6 6EN
2016/00494/FUL
Erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition; erection of a single storey infill extension to side at ground floor level; excavation of front garden and part of rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the basement.

1 Salisbury Pavement
Daves Road
London SW6 7HT
2016/00512/FUL
Installation of a new shopfront.
23 Girdlers Road
London W14 0PS
2016/00592/FUL
Replacement of all existing windows to front, rear and side elevations with white uPVC to match existing style.

33 Shepherd's Bush Road
London W6 7LU
2016/00596/FUL
Retention of the extended width four storey side extension to ground, first, second and third floor levels; relocation 3 affected windows to rear elevation at first, second and third floor levels.

6 Paddenswick Road
London W6 0UB
2016/00372/FUL
Replacement of existing timber sash windows to front elevation at second floor level with new timber double glazed sash windows; replace existing two windows to rear elevation at second floor level with new double glazed uPVC windows.

Maisonette A First And Second Floors
63 Walham Grove
London SW6 1QR
2016/00481/FUL
Replacement of existing windows with PVCu heritage rose sash windows at first and second floor level, to the front and side elevation.

424 Fulham Palace Road
London SW6 6HX
2016/00611/FUL

Replacement of all existing windows on the front elevation with white uPVC double-glazed windows.

22 And 24 St Peter's Grove
London W6 9AZ
2016/00559/FUL

Change of use of no. 24 St Peter's Grove from light industrial use (Class B1) into residential use (Class C3), bricking up of existing windows to the side and rear elevation of the building, replacement of existing doors with new doors at the front elevation and alterations to the roof of the single storey Building at no. 24 St Peter's Grove; demolition of existing two storey dwellinghouse and erection of a replacement part one, part two storey building with a garage at ground floor level in connection with the creation of a new dwellinghouse at no. 22 Peter's Grove incorporating no. 24 St Peter's Grove.

38 Aynhoe Road
London W14 0QD
2016/00562/FUL
Replacement of existing dormer with a new enlarged dormer in the rear roofspace.

38 Aynhoe Road
London W14 0QD
2016/00561/FUL
Demolition of the single storey conservatory and erection of a replacement single storey rear extension of the same footprint; lowering of the basement floor level.

1 - 16 Broadmead 10 - 24 Auriol Road
London W14 0SS
2016/00254/FUL
Demolition of existing four storey building and erection of a replacement 5 storey plus basement level building comprising 24 self-contained residential flats (Class C3); formation of roof terraces at the rear of all residential units, with associated cycle parking, refuse store, external amenity space, landscaping and two off-street car parking spaces (Amended site address).

1 Media Centre - BBC White City
201 Wood Lane
London W12 7TQ
2016/00377/FUL
Change of Use of ground floor retail Units 2 and 3 of former BBC Media Centre to private members gym (class D2) for a period of 2 years.

Marie D'Orliac Former Peterborough School
Clancarty Road
London SW6 3AA
2016/00529/FUL
External alterations to include installation of a commercial extraction canopy and associated roof mounted AC heat pump system plant, alterations to 4no windows to the rear of the property to facilitate extraction/air supply ducting; relocation of the existing door, installation of a new window and a retractable ladder to the side elevation; associated internal and external alterations (Amended application reference number and site address).

46 Novello Street
London SW6 4JB
2016/00031/FUL
Erection of a rear roof extension involving an increase in the ridge height; erection of a rear extension at second floor level over part of the existing back addition; alterations to the existing first floor level, on top of the existing back addition. Installation of 2no rooflights in the front roofspace. (Amended description).

49 Palliser Road
London W14 9EB
2016/00490/FUL
Installation of a new shopfront.
9 Bryony Road
London W12 0SR
2016/00482/FUL
Erection of a rear extension at first floor level, on top of the existing back addition.

21 - 25 King Street
London W6 9HW
2016/00108/ADV
Display of 3no. internally illuminated fascia signs on the front elevation.
Flat 5 55 Sinclair Road
London W14 0NR
2016/00256/FUL
Replacement of existing single framed wooden French doors in the rear elevation at first floor level with double-glazed uPVC French doors.

99 Mellitus Street
London W12 0AU
2016/00627/FUL
Replacement of existing single glazed timber sliding sash, casement windows and doors with double glazed timber sliding sash, casement windows and doors.

290 - 294 Uxbridge Road
London W12 7LJ
2016/00597/FUL
Retention of an ATM machine to the front elevation.

9 Wolverton Gardens
London W6 7DY
2015/05870/FUL

Erection of a part two storey, part three storey rear extension at first, second and third floor level.
314 - 316 Lillie Road
London SW6 7PS
2015/05615/FUL
Installation of a new ATM machine to the existing shopfront; installation of a receipt bin fixed to the pier at front elevation; alterations to existing shopfront.

14 Redmore Road
London W6 0HZ
2016/00401/FUL
Reinstatement of the rear chimney stack with London Stock Brick; replacement of 1no window with new double glazed window at first floor level to the rear elevation.

Undercroft Of A40 Flyover To East Of Wood Lane
London
2016/00645/FUL
The Development of an electricity substation (Sui Generis - electricity undertaking) and the construction of an access forecourt and cycle storage facility in an undercroft area to the A40 flyover by Wood Lane London.

67 Queensmill Road
London SW6 6JR
2016/00613/FUL
Minor material amendment to previously approved planning permission ref: 2015/01438/FUL granted 21st May 2015 to include the installation of 1no rooflight above the main flat roof at roof level, omission of 3no rooflights and installation 4no rooflights above the roof of single storey side extension and installation of a new entrance gate to the side elevation.

290 - 294 Uxbridge Road
London W12 7LJ
2016/00598/ADV
Retention of internally illuminated ATM surround to the front elevation.

197 New King's Road
London SW6 4SR
2016/00026/FUL
Installation of 5no. wall-mounted air-conditioning condenser units to the rear elevation at ground floor level.

314 - 316 Lillie Road
London SW6 7PS
2015/05616/ADV
Display of non-illuminated ATM surround to the front elevation.
18 Waldemar Avenue
London SW6 5NA
2016/00642/FUL
Erection of an additional floor at roof level; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of the existing back addition.

91 - 93 King Street
London W6 9XB
2016/00573/FUL
Erection of additional floor above main roof and installation of 4no rooflights in the front roofspace and 3no rooflights in the side roofspace; erection of a front infill extension at ground floor level and installation of new shopfront; erection of rear extensions at first and second floor level; excavation in connection with the creation of a new basement to be used as part of the commercial unit (Use Class A2) at ground floor level; erection of an external staircase from ground to first floor level at the rear of the property; formation of roof terraces at first, second and third floor levels to the rear elevation; alterations to fenestration of rear and side elevation; removal of render to front, side and rear elevations; formation of new residential entrance on Bridge Ave; in connection with change of use of the first, second and third floor level from commercial (A2) into 2 x studio, 4 x two bedroom and 1 x three bedroom self-contained flats (C3).

21 Queensmill Road
London SW6 6JP
2016/00601/FUL

Erection of a front roof extension with three dormer windows; replacement of window in rear roof extension with full-length window and Juliette balcony; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition.

39 Eilerby Street
London SW6 6EX
2016/00603/FUL
Excavation of the front, side and part of rear garden to form lightwells, in connection with the enlargement of the basement; erection of a single storey extension to the rear and side of main building; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition.

Flat First Floor
31 Richmond Street
London W6 7HJ
2016/00563/FUL
Erection of an additional floor at roof level; erection of a rear extension at second floor level, on top of existing back addition.

FOR CONSERVATION AREA CONSENT (DEMOLITION WORK) FOR LISTED BUILDING CONSENT
Marie D'Orliac Former Peterborough School
Clancarty Road
London SW6 3AA
2016/00529/FUL
External alterations to include installation of a commercial extraction canopy and associated roof mounted AC heat pump system plant, alterations to 4no windows to the rear of the property to facilitate extraction/air supply ducting; relocation of the existing door, installation of a new window and a retractable ladder to the side elevation; internal alterations to include installation a commercial kitchen on the ground floor to include decoration to walls, new vinyl flooring and new suspended ceiling; associated internal and external alterations (Amended application reference number and site address).

The Salutation 154 King Street
London W6 0QU
2016/00250/LBC
Internal alterations to include the refurbishment of ladies toilets comprising of new lightings and wall mirrors, refurbishment of men's toilets comprising of new lightings, redecoration of lobby area, redecoration of existing bar area, new pendant to existing rooflight, replacement of existing bar walk and step with floor tiles, installation of a new veneered timber bar top to front servery, installation of new decorative timber screen, new floor tiles to front entrance steps, new gas coal fire within existing surround, new carpets to front seating area; new timber flooring to replace the existing carpeting the bar area and new roof blinds to glazed roof area; External alterations to include replacement of damaged air brick at the front elevation, alterations in the beer garden to include placing of new tables and chairs, replacement of existing plank table tops with solid table tops, installation of new drink shelf, repositioning and installation of a new timber fronted counter to B.B.Q. equipment, new covered roof and new timber screen to each seating area; associated internal and external alterations.

FOR DEVELOPMENT WHICH MAY AFFECT THE SETTING OR CONTEXT OF A LISTED BUILDING
22 And 24 St Peter's Grove
London W6 9AZ
2016/00559/FUL
Change of use of no. 24 St Peter's Grove from light industrial use (Class B1) into residential use (Class C3), bricking up of existing windows to the side and rear elevation of the building, replacement of existing doors with new doors at the front elevation and alterations to the roof of the single storey Building at no. 24 St Peter's Grove; demolition of existing two storey dwellinghouse and erection of a replacement part one, part two storey building with a garage at ground floor level in connection with the creation of a new dwellinghouse at no. 22 Peter's Grove incorporating no. 24 St Peter's Grove.

691 Fulham Road
London SW6 5UJ
2015/06043/FUL
Erection of a dormer window in the rear roofspace; erection of rear extensions at lower ground, upper ground and first floor level; installation of 2no rooflights in the front roofspace and 1no rooflight in the side roofspace; replacement of the existing window with a new window at first floor level to the rear elevation.

The Salutation 154 King Street
London W6 0QU
2016/00418/FUL
External alterations to include replacement of damaged air brick at the front elevation, alterations in the beer garden to include placing of new tables and chairs, replacement of existing plank table tops with solid table tops, installation of new drink shelf, repositioning and installation of a new timber fronted counter to B.B.Q. equipment, new covered roof and new timber screen to each seating area; associated internal and external alterations.

Marie D'Orliac Former Peterborough School
Clancarty Road
London SW6 3AA
2016/00529/FUL
External alterations to include installation of a commercial extraction canopy and associated roof mounted AC heat pump system plant, alterations to 4no windows to the rear of the property to facilitate extraction/air supply ducting; relocation of the existing door, installation of a new window and a retractable ladder to the side elevation; associated internal and external alterations (Amended application reference number and site address).

21 - 25 King Street
London W6 9HW
2016/00108/ADV
Display of 3no. internally illuminated fascia signs on the front elevation.

23 Kenmont Gardens
London NW10 6BT
2016/00328/FUL
Extensions and alterations to existing single storey building, including the erection of a roof extension to form new roof and associated elevational alterations in connection with its use as part of the ground floor flat.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by **12th March 2016**. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 2013
NOTICES UNDER REGULATION 13
Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should do so by **12th March 2016**. See below for ways of commenting on applications.

Signed: **NIGEL PALLACE**
Executive Director for Transport and Technical Services on behalf of HAMMERSMITH & FULHAM COUNCIL

You can view applications, make comments and monitor their progress on our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning. Click on the "Planning Online" logo on the Planning Home Page.

You can also E-mail comments to: plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk. You can also inspect details of applications using computers at our office RECEPTION FIRST FLOOR HAMMERSMITH TOWN HALL EXTENSION KING STREET W6 between 9.00am and 5.00pm, Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays.

If you want to make comments on applications please E-mail them through our website or post them to **DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICE ENVIRONMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT TOWN HALL KING STREET W6 9JU** by the date shown above. Please include the application reference number and the name of the planning officer. We will try to consider any representations received after the date indicated but this cannot be guaranteed so please reply promptly. For initial enquiries call our information and reception service on **020 8753 1081** or **020 8753 1082**.

lbhf.gov.uk/planning Online
Send us your comments about planning applications via our website: www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning

Hammersmith & Fulham Council

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

NOTICE UNDER THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 SECTION 123(2A) (as Amended)

Land in Bishop's Park, Bishop's Avenue, London SW6 6EA (the "Land")

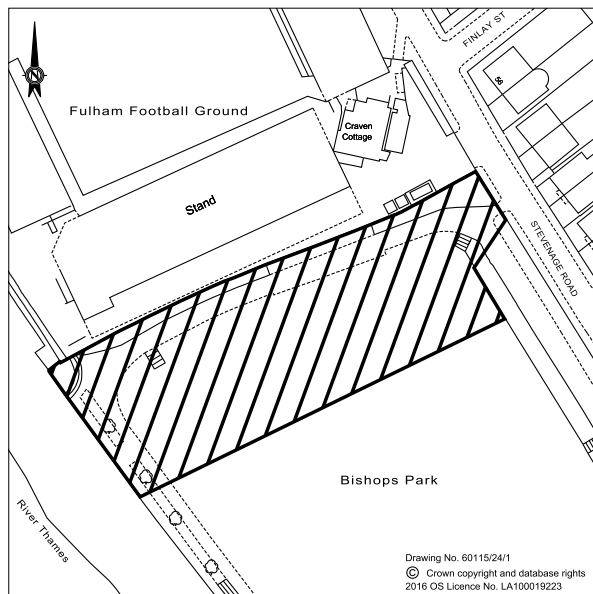
1. The Land shown hatched black on the below plan forms part of an open space held by the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham (the "Council"). The Land measures 5569.2 sq m.
2. NOTICE IS HEREBY given pursuant to Section 123(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 that the Council intends to dispose of the Land by way of a lease for a term of less than three years for the purpose of temporary use as a contractors' compound to facilitate the carrying out of development at the adjacent property Fulham Football Club. The Land would be restored to parkland on expiry of the lease.
3. Any objection to the intended disposal must be made in writing and addressed to:
Ian Ross
Parks Manager
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham,
c/o The Stable Yard,
Holland Park
Ilchester Place
LONDON W8 6LU

No later than the 9th March 2016 (quoting reference RSD/IR/BP).

Dated this 23rd February 2016

Signed *Ian Ross*

On behalf of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham



LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(WYFOLD ROAD)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate the removal of a tower crane in the above named road, it intends to make an Order the effect of which would prohibit vehicular traffic in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, no person shall cause any vehicle to proceed, stop, wait, load or unload in a section of Wyfold Road between its junctions with Munster Road and Kingwood Road.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would be in place via Kingwood Road and Munster Road
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 12th March 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Saturday 12th March 2016 and last for 1 day. Back updates are schedule for the 19th or 26th of March 2016. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 18th day of February 2016.

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1)

(KING STREET)

TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC

1. The Council of the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham hereby gives notice that in order to facilitate utility installation works in the above named road; it intends to make an Order the effect of which would suspend the westbound bus lane in a section of the above named road.
2. Whilst works are in progress, or whilst the authorised traffic signs are displayed, the westbound bus lane shall be suspended between Black Lion Lane and St Peter's Square.
3. An alternative route for traffic in article 2 would not be required.
4. Exemptions would be provided in the Order to permit reasonable access to premises, so far as it is practical without interference with the execution of the said work and for works vehicles, any vehicle being used in connection with police, fire or ambulance purposes and anything done with the permission or at the direction of a police constable in uniform.
5. The Order would come into operation on the 15th March 2016 and would be valid for a maximum period of 18 months or until works are completed, whichever is the sooner.
6. Works would be expected to commence on Tuesday 15th March 2016 and last for 2 weeks. The dates specified are for guidance and informative purposes only and works may extend outside these dates.

Dated this 18th day of February 2016.

Nicholas Ruxton-Boyle
Chief Transport Planner
Transport and Highways

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ALL ADVERTISEMENTS

Orders are accepted by the Publishers subject to the Standard Conditions agreed between the Newspaper Society and the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising. Save that:

1. Advertisements are accepted on the conditions that (a) descriptions relating to goods are accurate and in no way contravene the provisions of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968, and the Fair Trading Act 1973, and (b) the copy complies with the British Code of Advertising Practice. Advertisements offering credit or hire facilities must conform to the Consumer Credit (Advertisements) Regulations 1980.

2. 'Classified' Advertisers offering goods or service of a business, commercial or trade nature will, at the discretion of the Publishers, be deemed 'Trade Advertisers', and as such, must include their names in advertisements. A telephone number is an optional addition to these requirements and not an alternative.

To comply with the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order 1977, Trade Advertisers must make it clear that they are selling goods in the course of business either by content, format, size or place of the advertisement or by including words such as 'trade', 'dealer', 'agent', 'wholesaler', '(T)' etc. in the advertisement.

3. The Publishers accept no liability whatsoever for any loss or damage however caused arising out of:

- (a) Any error, inaccuracy or omission in the printing or publishing of any advertisement;
- (b) Any failure to publish an advertisement on the day / date or day / dates specified by the advertiser; or
- (c) Any delay in forwarding or omission to forward replies to box numbers to the Advertiser.

4. The Publishers will endeavour to publish advertisements on the day / date or day / dates specified by the Advertiser but insertion days / dates cannot be guaranteed.

5. Where shrinkage of advertisement occurs for whatever reasons the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre. This will NOT apply to the full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.

6. The Publishers reserve the right to reject an advertisement or to vary it in any way they deem fit, at any time before publication, whether or not the advertisement has already been accepted for publication.

7. Whilst every effort is made to minimise errors in advertisements, mistakes do sometimes occur. Advertisers or their agents should therefore check their advertisements and inform us of any errors immediately. Responsibility cannot be accepted for more than one incorrect insertion. Typographical or minor changes, which do not affect the value of the advertisement, do not qualify for republication or allowances.

8. All gross advertising rates (except classified lineage and semi-display) are subject to and include a 0.1% Advertising Standards Board of Finance surcharge, payable by the advertisers to help finance the self-regulatory control system administered by the Advertising Standards Authority.

9. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.

10. Should the rate for advertisements be altered the price for remaining insertions shall be revised accordingly or the publishers shall have the right to cancel the unexpired portion of the order.

11. The placing of an advertisement order will be deemed an acceptance of these conditions.

12. Account facilities are granted at the discretion of the Company.

13. All accounts must be settled within the terms agreed by the Company and the Customer.

(1) Should an advertiser be in breach of the agreed terms, the publisher shall be entitled to levy a 10% surcharge on the value of the whole debt in respect of accounts with terms of less than 30 days, and any discounts or commissions that had been allowed will be reclaimed.

(2) Regular monthly accounts that are in breach of the agreed terms will pay an interest rate of 6% above the current bank of England base rate for each month that the account is overdue and discounts or commissions that had been allowed will be reclaimed. Should Legal action be required the interest will be charged in accordance with the County Court Act 1984.

14. Where an advertiser instructs / appoints an advertising agent to act on their behalf, the advertiser will remain jointly and severally liable for payment in respect for an advertisement(s) should the appointed agent fail to pay. For the avoidance of doubt, the agent acts for the advertiser and not for the publisher with the agent being responsible for notifying the advertiser of this liability.

15. All queries must be notified, preferably in writing to the accounts department of the publisher within 7 days of the invoice date.

16. All digital services are maintained in partnership with the publishers' hosting service providers. Every effort is made to ensure the continuity of these services, but some occasional technical downtime beyond the publishers control may occur. The publisher and its associated companies shall be under no liability if the production and distribution of web services is delayed or prevented by any cause beyond the control of the publisher.

17. The Publisher may provide voucher copies for published advertisements in electronic form only subject to certain criteria. Further information is available on request.

18. The copyright of advertisements produced wholly or partially by the Publishers belong to the Publishers. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the Publishers' consent.

Box Numbers

Boxes are open for the receipt of bona fide answers and are not available for distribution of trade canvassing matter. Original testimonials, goods, cash, cash stamps or payments of any kind must not be enclosed. A box Number and postal address are charged as part of the advertisement, i.e. Box No., centre address. There is no charge for forwarding replies.

Box numbers alone are not available for use in 'Trade' advertisements, other than Employment and Business Opportunities.

Holiday & Travel Category

All advertising must contain the name of the advertiser, phone number alone are not permitted.

Data Protection

The service you have requested may require us to carry out a credit search at a credit-referencing agency, which will record the fact that a search has been made. We may need to share your information with other lenders and credit reference agencies. However, we will only use the information from these searches to make credit-granting decisions and, if necessary, for fraud prevention or tracing debtors.

Data controller will use your information for administration and analysis. We may share your information with other Tindle Group Newspaper companies or carefully selected third parties. We, or they, may send you details of other goods and services, which may be of interest to you. The information may be provided by letter, telephone or other reasonable means of communication. Calls may be recorded or monitored for training purposes.

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LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

sport

Average R's can rule out play-off hopes

THE league table rarely lies and there is no getting away from the fact that Queens Park Rangers are a bang average team, drifting aimlessly in the middle regions of the Championship.

They are 12th, exactly halfway in the second division, 13 points off the play-off positions and 14 above the relegation zone. This season is effectively now a write-off, hopes of promotion via the play-offs surely now extinguished. It's all about preparing for next season.

Three managers, Chris Ramsey, Neil Warnock and now Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, have tried – and largely failed – to galvanise a depleted team still suffering the fall-out of relegation from the Premier League last May.

With Financial Fair Play constraints hanging over them, QPR are having to sift through bargain discount shelves at football's equivalent of Lidl rather than shop at Waitrose.

It's going to take time for an inexperienced young manager such as Hasselbaink to turn things around at Loftus Road. Like most of the players at his limited disposal, the former Burton Albion boss is still learning the ropes at this level and shouldn't be judged until he has had a full close season, followed by a league campaign, to fully stamp his mark on the club.

Spectacular

It's a sign of the time that R's needed a goal by Matt Phillips three minutes into time added on to salvage a 1-1 draw at second-from-bottom Bolton Wanderers on Saturday. In a game of very few opportunities, it took a spectacular long-range shot from Bolton's Zach Clough midway through the second half to open the

scoring.

Hasselbaink said: "We knew from the start that it'd be a test physically. So we had to come here and be stubborn.

"In the first half we didn't really create much. But in the second half we tried to be a little bit more positive – even though it was still difficult.

"They scored a 'worldy' goal. At the end of the day, you're not going to concede goals like that every week.

"What was important was the reaction after that. We kept believing that we could come back.

"We have individuals who can make things happen. It's a shame that we couldn't score earlier. James Perch had an excellent chance in the second half. If that had gone in, it probably would have opened the game up – we could have gone on to make it 2-0, 3-0."

He added: "It wasn't a classic. It was two teams trying to find their way, who couldn't really do



LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW
With Tony McDonald

that. Both teams had different game-plans.

"For us, now, we just want to improve – match after match. We want to make sure that we turn up every game. We want to put some foundations down.

"I think we've got enough creativity. We had enough creativity out on the pitch today.

"Bolton defended well but I will say if that is the case, then our creative players need to find another niche, another space. You have to do something different.

"However, we are getting there. It's not going to happen in one week, or in two. We are working hard but there is a lot to be done.

"The reaction of my players after going a goal down today was good – and that's a positive sign for me."

After Tuesday's visit to promotion-chasing Sheffield Wednesday, played after LWN Sport went to press, R's return to W12 on Saturday to face Birmingham City.

■ QPR have allowed another player not in their future plans to leave the club.

FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Saturday, February 27
Southampton v CHELSEA, 3.00
FULHAM v Middlesbrough, 3.00
QPR v Birmingham City, 3.00
Tuesday, March 1
Norwich City v CHELSEA, 7.45



■ TOM Cairney nets Fulham's first against Charlton Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

Tactical switch

■ FULHAM from back page

Charlton hit a post, while Andy Lonergan was much the busier of the two keepers for most of the first period.

So much so, Whites' head coach Slaviša Jokanović was forced into making a tactical switch at half-time that paid full dividends.

Fulham began with a 4-4-2 'diamond' formation but Jokanović introduced Michael Madl and Chris Baird at the interval and changed to a 3-5-2, which had proved so effective in the 3-1 victory at QPR.

To give him credit, at least the Serb didn't try to gloss over his earlier error, as many managers would have. Jokanović said: "In the first 45 minutes we found many difficulties and Charlton troubled us many times. It's probably my mistake, we tried to play from the middle.

Better football

"I killed' (full-backs) Ryan Fredericks and Luke Garbutt and didn't find the right position for them. We scored the goal in the first 45 minutes but I wasn't so happy, so decided to switch the structure and we played better football in the second 45 minutes.

"After winning 3-0, after getting a clean sheet, after scoring a set-piece goal, we can be satisfied with our performance today and what we offered for our supporters in our stadium."

It was just the response and result the Serb had been looking for after the previous 3-0 midweek defeat at Blackburn Rovers, where Jokanović felt the need afterwards to apologise to the travelling fans for his team's "lack of desire".

He said: "I say sorry to our fans who

travelled with us to watch this game. We didn't offer anything special. We played without spirit, without competitiveness, without desire.

"We did not play good football in any moment in the game. Generally, they won the challenges, we did not try to play football and we did not do anything important. It is a bad sensation and we need a change immediately. We won one game a few days earlier (at QPR), that's history, it's over.

"I am here for a month-and-a-half and this game, this is a game without any spirit. I am very disappointed really.

"We are where we are right now. We must be strong. With this spirit, this desire, this competitiveness, this is not enough for anything important."

But after bouncing back in style against lowly Charlton, he said: "At the end of this strange week we've won two London derbies and had one very poor performance at Blackburn. It's a great afternoon for us but it's over, the only important thing now is this game on Tuesday."

Jokanović was looking forward to the midweek trip to Leeds United – played after LWN Sport went to press – and this Saturday's home clash with third-placed Middlesbrough.

"We have to try to play with more confidence," he stated. "Generally, I believe we are a good group of footballers and we can still be a better team than what we actually are right now.

"To make important things you need to win games in a row. If you win one game but after you lose three, then this is the wrong direction for us."

■ CHELSEA from back page

"We are playing well just now and I believe we can beat anyone in the league, so if we carry on the way we are and concentrate on our defensive work, we will be OK.

"You can see the guys up front are enjoying their work and when they are like that, they create lots of chances."

Mikel has warm words for his midfield partner Cesc Fabregas, who was on top form against City.

He said: "It's fantastic to see Cesc play. What an intelligent player he is. We know he is not the quickest but, saying that, he is not slow either. The way he plays the ball, it's just amazing to watch him.

■ CHELSEA U18s continue the defence of their FA Youth Cup with a quarter-final match at Stamford Bridge on Friday against Reading (7.05pm kick-off).

Tickets have to be purchased in advance from www.chelseafc.com/tickets or at the ground before 4.00pm on Friday.



■ FALL GUY: Yun Suk-Young has been released to join Charlton on loan

Surrey appoint Aussie coach

SURREY have put their faith in former Australia one-day international batsman Michael Di Venuto as their new head coach to replace Graham Ford.

The 42-year-old Tasmanian has spent two years as assistant coach and lead batting coach for Cricket Australia.

He is due to return to England in time for the new season in April on an initial three-year deal.

Di Venuto was with Sussex and Derbyshire before moving to Durham, where he twice won the county title.

High quality

Surrey director of cricket Alec Stewart said: "Following the departure of Graham Ford it was vitally important that we found another high quality coach with a great work ethic and excellent knowledge of the English county game.

"Michael is a good people person. His 12 years of county experience will be invaluable. He is highly regarded within the Australian set-up for his ability to work with and get the best out of players.

"Being able to appoint a coach from a top quality international team can only serve to benefit the club and I would like to thank Cricket Australia for their professional dealings."

■ MIDDLESEX are heading to South Africa on a pre-season tour at the end of next week.

The squad will be based in Cape Town, where they will play three competitive matches over the two-week duration.

Training with both the red and white ball, skills practice, netting and team-bonding – including a trip up Table Mountain and a visit to Robben Island – are also on the

schedule.

Middlesex's first game will be a T20 encounter against Western Province CC on Wednesday, March 9.

The next day they will play their first 50-over match of the tour, at Newlands, against Newlands CC.

To complete the tour, Middlesex will face Stellenbosch CC in a two-day game on March 15-16, before flying home the next day.

London Weekly News

SPORT

Tuesday, February 23rd, 2016

● SPORTS DESK: 07711 169 427



■ JOHN Obi Mikel on the ball against Manchester United's ex-Blues Juan Mata Pic: Rob Newell/Digital South

Terry ready for Saints

JOHN Terry is back in full training and raring to play at Southampton in the Premier League on Saturday.

Terry has missed the past two matches, a 2-1 defeat to Paris Saint-Germain in the Champions League and the thumping 5-1 hammering of Manchester City in the FA Cup at Stamford Bridge on Sunday, with a hamstring injury.

But he told LWN Sport: "I'll be back in full training on Tuesday."

Three days after travelling to Southampton, Blues will go on the road again when they visit Norwich City next Tuesday. But Terry will find it tough to oust the present centre-back pairing of Gary Cahill and Branislav Ivanovic.

With Kurt Zouma's season already ended by a cruciate ligament injury, 35-year-old Terry will be bending the ear of interim boss Guus Hiddink this week to reinstate him in the side that is rediscovering the form that made them champions last season.

Chelsea will face Everton at Goodison Park in the sixth round of the FA Cup and defender Cesar

● By LWN reporter **Paul Lagan**
sport@londonweeklynews.co.uk

Azpilicueta said: "We are a much better side than when we played them in the league in August. We lost that game 3-1 but now it's the FA Cup. We know it won't be easy but we are trying to maintain our improvement and go to Wembley."

Spanish international Azpilicueta was full of praise for team-mate Eden Hazard who appeared to be back to his best against Manchester City, scoring from a sensational free-kick that signalled the end to a moody period for the Belgian in SW6.

Reshuffle

"Eden is a great player," he said. "We have a strong squad and obviously when we have him at his best, we have a much better chance to get better results."

The defender has moved across from left-back to the right-back spot due to a reshuffle forced on the side as a result of injuries to centre-backs Terry and Zouma.

But Azpilicueta doesn't care where he plays.

"I'm just happy to play," he said. "It's the position I played at the beginning of my career. I seem to have played as a left-back more recently. But I will play everywhere."

One Chelsea player revelling in the arrival of Hiddink following the sacking of Jose Mourinho is central midfielder John Obi Mikel. The Nigerian, 28, scored his sixth goal of a 10-year Chelsea career against Paris Saint-Germain last Tuesday in the Champions League and is loving his football at the moment – and that is down to Hiddink.

When asked why he didn't score against Manchester City, he laughed: "Nah, I did not score against Manchester City. But we got, what . . . four, five? That's enough."

"Ever since Guus has come in, the atmosphere has changed. The players feel more relaxed. People know what their job is and the players get on with it. It is a way which allows the players to perform."

"He gives them responsibility. But he expects you to thrive on that responsibility. He does it in a way that makes the players feel comfortable."



This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

"Guus doesn't really get into people's business. Players like that. When we get onto the training ground, the players know exactly what they need to do. That's the same on game day. He does not stand up and speak much but we know exactly what to do."

Hiddink was interim manager before, in 2008-09, and Mikel believes there are parallels with that season.

"Yeah, I think then we won the FA Cup and he knows this club very well. He knows what the owner wants, which is for the players to perform in a relaxed way – and that is what Guus is doing."

So does Mikel want Hiddink to stay?

"Obviously I want him to stay," he said. "I mean, it's the choice of the owner and the club but if you speak to the players, then 99 per cent want him to stay. We are very happy and performing well, so let's hope he continues."

Hiddink has lost only two games over his two spells as manager of Chelsea.

"It depends on Guus as well, if he wants to stay," Mikel continued.

"He has said a few times that he is here until the end of the season but you never know, he might change his mind. And if the club want to appoint him, then fair enough. But his record speaks volumes for his ability."

Back in 2009, the players were trying to get him to stay. Will the same happen this season?

"Yeah, I remember, let's hope he stays," said Mikel. "I have never seen him get angry. I think that when he gets upset, he tries to clear the air straight away."

"He speaks to whoever is involved and lets them know what went wrong. He lets you know that this football club is bigger than anyone. He sets the record straight and does not hold grudges. He treats us as professional footballers."

Revitalised

Hiddink's influence and impact upon the side is perhaps most evident in the revitalised form of Diego Costa. The Spain striker set Blues on their way to Sunday's thrashing of youthful Man City with the opener in the 35th minute. Although Faupala levelled two minutes later, second-half goals by Willian, Cahill, Hazard and Bertrand Traore completed the rout.

"It takes a lot to get Diego into a good mood," Mikel added.

Looking ahead to the FA Cup quarter-final at Everton (to be played across the weekend of March 11-14), Blues' holding midfielder knows that it will be a tough game with a lot of spice thrown in.

"I think it's a tough game. It's always tough playing Everton, especially up there."

"I wouldn't say there is bad blood between the two sides but it's sometimes very, very physical. I would not say it crosses the line but it's very difficult."

■ Continued page 27

■ Continued page 27



Focus on Craven Cottage

By TONY McDONALD

Classy Cairney one to watch

TOM Cairney is rapidly emerging as one of the best young prospects in England's second tier and if he maintains his current impressive form, Fulham will face a battle to keep him at Craven Cottage.

Cultured Cairney, signed from Blackburn Rovers last summer in a reported £3m deal, is one of the best passers of the ball in the Championship and possesses a magical wand of a left foot.

Now he has started to add goals to his undoubted all round quality.

Fulham have done well to get him under contract until at least the summer of 2019. But if he can consistently reproduce his current form in the weeks and months ahead, bigger clubs than Fulham will inevitably be watching his progress with increasing interest.

The 25-year-old followed his recent strike in the victory at Queens Park Rangers with a brace in Saturday's 3-0 home win against Charlton Athletic, as Whites extended their recent successful record in London derbies.

Struggling Charlton, who made most of the running and created the more promising

moments of the first half, were unfortunate to go behind to a rising Cairney strike that found the roof of the net from 12 yards via his weaker right foot.

He admitted afterwards: "I didn't really know too much about it, especially as I hit it with my standing leg. But, yeah, it was a great feeling to hit the net today."

Swashbuckling

Defender Michael Madl celebrated his home debut by heading Fulham's second goal from just four yards out – where was the Charlton keeper? – following a Ross McCormack corner from the left, before Cairney completed the team's swashbuckling second half performance with a more customary left-foot volley from 20 yards that dipped and nestled inside the far corner at the Hammersmith end.

"As soon as it was in the air I knew what I was going to do, although most of the time it doesn't go in like it did today. As soon as I hit it I knew I had a chance," he added.

"I always believe we will score goals. At one point we were the highest scorers in the league,

and yet in the bottom half, which doesn't really make sense. I suppose everybody gets value for money when they come and watch us!"

Cairney's second goal was Fulham's 50th in 32 league games this season – an impressive tally matched only by second-placed Burnley. However, the stark difference is that Whites have conceded more than twice as many as the Claret's (53 compared to 26).

For Austrian newcomer Madl, his goal and the result held extra significance. Speaking to the official website (www.fulhamfc.com), he said: "My parents and brother were watching me for the first time here, so it was a special moment for me."

"It was a great feeling to play for the first time here at Craven Cottage. To score is a special feeling for me, because I'm not a goal-getter like Rossco (Ross McCormack) or Moussa (Dembélé), so it was a great feeling. We're all very happy to take a win."

How Fulham managed to keep their first clean sheet since mid-October owed more to luck than the quality of the home side's defending.

■ Continued page 27

R'S CAN ABANDON PLAY-OFF HOPES – page 27